

*Ethics in Prevention***Ethics in Action: Scenarios**

In each of the following scenarios, a prevention professional faces an ethical dilemma related to one of the principles in the Prevention Code of Ethics. Please indicate whether you think the professional responded in a way that is consistent with the principle at stake. Use the Ethics in Action: Answer Key to check your answers when you are done.

Principle 1: Non-Discrimination**Scenario 1 of 4**

Janet is struggling to keep her upcoming parent training within budget. After hiring some people to provide childcare, renting comfortable and readily accessible space, and purchasing refreshments, she realizes that she will not have enough money to hire the sign language interpreter requested by one of the parents. She has noticed that this parent is very good at reading lips, so she feels confident that this parent will benefit from the training without the interpreter. In the end, Janet believes that it is more important to spend her limited funds in ways that will benefit everyone rather than just one participant.

Is Janet's decision not to hire the sign language interpreter consistent with the Non-Discrimination Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Non-Discrimination Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Non-Discrimination Principle.


Scenario 2 of 4

Cameron is planning a workshop on prescription drug misuse for low-income seniors. He selects a conference center that is centrally located and accessible by public transportation, and provides a van service for any seniors who need transportation. Cameron is pleased with how the event is coming together and thrilled when a national expert agrees to lead one of the workshop sessions...until he discovers how much the expert charges for his services. If he hires the expert, Cameron will need to charge participants a significant registration fee. After much consideration, Cameron decides not to hire the expert.

Is Cameron's decision not to hire the expert consistent with the Non-Discrimination Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Non-Discrimination Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Non-Discrimination Principle.

Scenario 3 of 4




Coalition members are planning a town hall meeting to share compelling data from their assessment of local substance abuse problems. Anthony, eager to hold the meeting as soon as possible to keep on track with the coalition's timeline, suggests meeting the following Wednesday. Others note that the suggested date is a religious holiday for some members of the community. Anthony dismisses their concerns. "It's impossible to pick a day that works for everyone," he explains. "There will always be a conflict. Let's stick with the date I suggested. We can post a summary of the data online for people who can't attend."

Is Anthony's decision to hold the town hall meeting on a religious holiday consistent with the Non-Discrimination Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Non-Discrimination Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Non-Discrimination Principle.

Scenario 4 of 4




Dena has been working with a group of Native American elders and youth from a rural reservation to select a substance abuse prevention curriculum to use in local schools. Based on a colleague's strong recommendation, she brings a curriculum to a meeting for the group to consider. The elders and youth are not impressed with the materials; they had been hoping for a curriculum that focuses more on connecting youth to family, ceremony, and ritual. Dena decides not to pursue this curriculum any further, even though her colleague thinks it could work well.

Is Dena's decision to dismiss this curriculum meeting consistent with the Non-Discrimination Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Non-Discrimination Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Non-Discrimination Principle.

Principle 2: Competence

Scenario 1 of 3




Malik was recently hired to coordinate a local media campaign to reduce underage drinking and driving. This is his first media campaign and he is struggling to get started. On learning that the Governor's Office for Highway Safety implemented a successful state-wide campaign a few years earlier, Malik decides to contact this office for more information. After leaving multiple messages, he finally connects with Delia, who spearheaded the state-wide campaign. Delia agrees to monthly lunch meetings with Malik until his campaign is up and running.

Is Malik's decision to seek help from Delia consistent with the Competence Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Competence Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Competence Principle.

Scenario 2 of 3



Before ending their weekly meeting, Leo's supervisor mentions that for the next few months Leo's budget for program activities will be reduced by about 20%. She explains that because the agency is experiencing a temporary shortfall, she is using a portion of Leo's budget to cover the salary of a colleague in another program. Although Leo knows this is an inappropriate use of his program's funds, he simply nods and says, "All right, thanks for letting me know." Yes, it will be hard to run his program with less money, but he appreciates that his supervisor is looking out for her staff.

Is Leo's decision to accept his supervisor's budget decisions consistent with the Competence Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Competence Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Competence Principle.

Scenario 3 of 3



Anna has been providing technical assistance services to regional prevention agencies for the past 12 years. She takes pride in her work and has developed many strong relationships throughout her community. Confident in her skills and abilities, Anna was surprised when her supervisor suggested that she attend a training to learn more about using data to support prevention planning. While she realizes that working with numbers is not her greatest strength, Anna is sure she knows enough to get by. After all, she has been an effective service provider for more than a decade, and her time is better used in service delivery than training. In the end, Anna decides to skip the training.

Is Anna's decision to skip the training consistent with the Competence Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Competence Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Competence Principle.

Principle 3: Integrity

Scenario 1 of 4



Deb is consulting with the Barwich School District to develop a comprehensive substance abuse prevention program for its middle schools. One component will be a curriculum for 6th graders on resisting peer pressure. The district has asked Deb to provide them with a selection of evidence-based programs that would meet their requirements. Deb has identified three programs that would be appropriate, including one that she helped to develop and regularly trains on. When discussing the options, she reveals to the district her affiliation with this program.

Are Deb's actions consistent with the Integrity Principle?

- ☐ Yes, her actions are consistent with the Integrity Principle.
- ☐ No, her actions conflict with the Integrity Principle.

Scenario 2 of 4

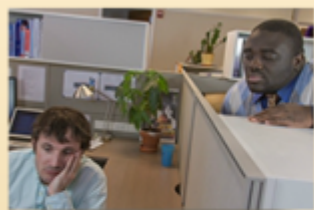


Kim was asked by her supervisor at Condor Public Health Agency to develop a slide presentation on prescription drug abuse for a community event. After a brief online search, she uncovered some research findings that were a great fit for her presentation. She also found some compelling photos. Since this was just a one-time presentation, she didn't provide credit for the research or the images. Are Kim's actions consistent with the Integrity Principle?

Are Kim's actions consistent with the Integrity Principle?

- ☐ Yes, her actions are consistent with the Integrity Principle.
- ☐ No, her actions conflict with the Integrity Principle.

Scenario 3 of 4



Jermal works as a prevention professional at the Graham Health Department. At least two or three times each week his coworker, Sam, arrives to work late. On several of these occasions, Sam has confided to Jermal that, to avoid thinking about his recent divorce, he's gotten into the habit of going to his neighborhood bar after work. He often drinks more than he planned. Jermal suspects that Sam needs professional help, but he feels uncomfortable broaching the topic with his co-worker. Instead, he decides to avoid Sam in an effort to stay out of his personal life.

Is Jermal's decision consistent with the Integrity Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Integrity Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Integrity Principle.

Scenario 4 of 4



Michele was recently hired to coordinate a regional substance abuse prevention program. On her application, Michele indicated that she was a Certified Prevention Professional, despite the fact that her certification has recently lapsed. She plans to get re-certified as soon as she had the time.

Is Michele's decision to indicate that she is certified consistent with the Integrity Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Integrity Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Integrity Principle.

Principle 4: Nature of Services

Scenario 1 of 4



After her agency received funds to address prescription drug misuse among senior citizens, Evelyn met with the director of the local senior center to discuss next steps. Eager to help, the director offered Evelyn the use of the center's community room from 7-8pm every Thursday for prevention activities. Evelyn thanked the director for the offer, but said she would like to talk to some seniors before deciding how to proceed. Evelyn then asked the director for the names of seniors who might be interested in serving as an advisory board for the program.

Is Evelyn's decision to form and collaborate with an advisory board comprised of seniors consistent with the Nature of Services Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Nature of Services Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Nature of Services Principle.

Scenario 2 of 4



In his first job as a prevention specialist, David has been responsible for organizing a variety of educational and recreational programs for high school youth during non-school hours. He has collaborated with the student-run organization Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) to plan and deliver many evening and weekend events. Over time, David's relationship with Alexis, president of the local SADD chapter, has evolved from a great working relationship to a close personal friendship. It was such a natural change that David hardly noticed it happening. At the end of one SADD meeting, David asks Alexis if she'd like to join him for dinner and a movie over the weekend.

Is David's decision to start dating Alexis consistent with the Nature of Services Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Nature of Services Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Nature of Services Principle.

Scenario 3 of 4



Shondra and her colleague have spent several years developing a social skills program for teens and would like to apply for a grant to expand the program. Knowing that strong outcome data would improve their chances of being funded, Shondra decides to collect information from the next group of program participants to measure changes in substance use behaviors and peer and familial relationships. She is concerned, however, that some parents might not want their children to answer questions about such personal matters. With this in mind, she decides to stick with the original program consent form that describes the program, but does not mention data collection.

Is Shondra's decision to use a consent form that describes the program, but does not mention data collection, consistent with the Nature of Services Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Nature of Services Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Nature of Services Principle.

Scenario 4 of 4



With the youth leadership retreat rapidly approaching, Ava realizes that many of the chaperones this year are volunteers. Per agency policy, she has conducted background checks on all of the paid staff who will be working the retreat, but not on the volunteers. With so much to do before the retreat, Ava wonders if she should even bother. Each volunteer is well known to the agency and many have volunteered in the past. Still, since this is the first time they are going to chaperone a youth retreat, Ava decides to take the time to conduct background checks on the volunteers too.

Is Ava's decision to conduct background checks for all youth leadership retreat staff, both paid and unpaid, consistent with the Nature of Services Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Nature of Services Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Nature of Services Principle.

Principle 5: Confidentiality

Scenario 1 of 4



Abigail has been facilitating a substance abuse prevention program for 10th grade students at a local high school. She received an invitation from a guidance counselor at the school to attend a meeting to discuss Joshua, one of the participants. The guidance counselor is concerned because Joshua's grades have been dropping, he has been falling asleep in class, and he has been seen hanging out with some students who have a reputation to be substance abusers. Abigail has also noticed some possible signs of substance use in Joshua's behavior, but she has not yet talked to him about them.

Based on the laws described in the Confidentiality Principle, can Abigail disclose her observations and concerns about Joshua to the guidance counselor without Joshua's consent?

- ☐ Yes, Abigail can disclose her observations and concerns.
- ☐ No, Abigail cannot disclose her observations and concerns.

Scenario 2 of 4



Isabella, a prevention specialist, facilitates a weekly education and support group for high school students. This week, Darcy, a group member, said that she feels like killing herself because her family is “so messed up.” Darcy laughed off the comment, but Isabella is concerned because Darcy has spoken repeatedly about being depressed at home. She has also disclosed to Isabella that she has misused prescription drugs in the past. Following the session, Isabella tells Darcy that she is required to report Darcy's suicide comment to her supervisor. When Darcy hears this, she becomes angry and reminds Isabella that this group is confidential.

Based on the laws described in the Confidentiality Principle, should Isabella disclose her concern for Darcy's health and safety without Darcy's consent?

- ☐ Yes, Isabella should disclose her concern.
- ☐ No, Isabella should not disclose her concern.

Scenario 3 of 4



Derek, a prevention professional working with college students who have violated the campus substance use policy, is approached in his office by the local sheriff. The sheriff serves Derek with a search warrant and directs him to unlock the file cabinet where he keeps his records about the students in his program.

Based on the laws described in the Confidentiality Principle, should Derek unlock the cabinet and disclose the information in his records to the sheriff?

- ☐ Yes, Derek should unlock the cabinet and disclose the information in his records.
- ☐ No, Derek should not unlock the cabinet and disclose the information in his records.

Scenario 4 of 4



Miles, a substance abuse prevention professional, is facilitating groups at a retreat for middle school youth. Over the course of a week, he has developed a strong rapport with many of the youth participants. On the last night of the retreat, one participant tells Miles that he doesn't want to go home because his father beats him when he gets angry. As soon as the youth says this, he begs Miles not to say anything to anyone.

Based on the laws described in the Confidentiality Principle, should Miles disclose this information without the youth's consent?

- ☐ Yes, Miles should disclose this information.
- ☐ No, Miles should not disclose this information.

Principle 6: Ethical Obligations for Community and Society

Scenario 1 of 3



When Jen, a prevention professional at the Brocktown Public Health Department, picked up her teenage son from his best friend's house last weekend she was alarmed to see several boys and girls staggering drunk out the front door. After questioning her son, he eventually admitted that the friend's parents were away for the weekend and that "some kids had shown up with some beer." He begged Jen not to call the police or notify the friend's parents. Jen finally agreed.

Is Jen's decision to remain silent, and not contact the police or the friend's parents, consistent with the Ethical Obligations Principle?

- ☐ Yes, it is consistent with the Ethical Obligations Principle.
- ☐ No, it conflicts with the Ethical Obligations Principle.

Scenario 2 of 3



In the city where Luciana works as a prevention specialist, there is widespread community support for a policy that would allow random drug testing of students in grades 7-12. The school board intends to vote on this policy at their next public meeting. Luciana is aware of several research studies that indicate random student drug testing lacks evidence of effectiveness at reducing student drug use. So she compiles these findings in a one-page fact sheet that she purposefully distributes to School Board members who are admittedly undecided about how to vote on this policy.

Are Luciana's actions consistent with the Ethical Obligations Principle?

- ☐ Yes, her actions are consistent with the Ethical Obligations Principle.
- ☐ No, her actions conflict with the Ethical Obligations Principle.

Scenario 3 of 3



Kira has lived in Brownsville all her life. She works at the Brownsville Middle School implementing a life skills promotion program. She's never been too involved in local politics, but this November a close friend is running for town council. To support her friend, Kira volunteers to take a vacation day from work and hold signs on election day in support of her friend's candidacy.

Are Kira's actions consistent with the Ethical Obligations Principle?

- ☐ Yes, her actions are consistent with the Ethical Obligations Principle.
- ☐ No, her actions conflict with the Ethical Obligations Principle.