Dear Ethics Committee...

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ISHA Convention- Rosemont, IL
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Learning Objectives

Participants will:

1: Identify at least one option to assist in ethical problem-solving

2: Apply the ISHA/ASHA code of ethics to questionable workplace situations
Ethics Education Committee Members

Michelle Zemsky Dineen - ISHA Ethics Education Committee, Chair

Meredith Baker-Rush
Judy Ball
Amy Burke
Kristin Chmela
Melanie Frazek
Jayne Jaskolski
Danielle Osmelak
Ilene Ross
Laura Wilber

Ethics Education Committee 2019-2020 Committee Goals

1. Provide education regarding changes to ethics documents governing the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology in Illinois, or of a national body, related to ethical practice.

2. Provide professional resources to practicing Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists to aid in avoiding or resolving ethical dilemmas in professional practice via, but not limited to contributions to social media updates, quarterly newsletter contributions, and annual presentation by committee at annual conventions.

3. Promote inclusion of ethics related topics for current and future professionals via student day, speaker suggestions, and submitted sessions as appropriate.

4. Provide community support by acting as a resource to the local and statewide communities in which we serve re: ethical questions and or concerns in the practice of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology.
Scenario #1

You are a speech-language pathologist providing In-home early intervention services. Your client’s parent says she needs to run down the street to pick up their other child from school. You will be alone in the house with the child (the Mom states it will be just a few minutes).
Ethical Decision Making Model

Am I facing an Ethical dilemma here?

What are the relevant facts, values, & beliefs?

Who are the key people involved?

State the dilemma clearly.

EVALUATE:
1. Ethical Principles
2. Code of Ethics
3. Social Roles
4. Self-Interests

Analysis

Does your proposed course of action lead to CONSENSUS?
If YES- then proceed...

If NO

Proposed course of action

What are the conflicts that arise from each action?

What are the possible courses of action one could take?


Principles and Rules in Question

Principle III, Rule B- Individuals shall avoid engaging in conflicts of interest whereby personal, financial, or other considerations have the potential to influence or compromise professional judgment and objectivity.

Principle IV, Rule R- You shall comply with local federal and state laws applicable to professional practice.

II-A, IV-B

Principle I, Rule T- Individuals shall provide reasonable notice and information about alternatives for obtaining care in the event that they can no longer provide professional services.
Scenario #2

A student screenshots an assignment and posts it on a professional social media group. The student is unsure of how to complete the assignment and would like a little assistance and is using the post as a discussion group forum. You are a member of this social media group.

Ethical Decision Making Model

Principles and Rules in Question

**Principle III, Rule A** - Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training, experience, and scholarly contributions.

**Principle III, Rule C** - Individuals shall not misrepresent research and scholarly activities, diagnostic information, services provided, results of services provided, products dispensed, or the effects of products dispensed.

**Principle IV, Rule E** - Individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, negligence, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

**Principle IV, Rule I** - Individuals shall not knowingly allow anyone under their supervision to engage in any practice that violates the Code of Ethics.

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Scenario #3

Nursing reported that a resident has been coughing at meals and with meds. An order for evaluation was received. You recommend a VFSS, but your facility administration does not want to do this. They only want a diet recommendation.
Ethical Decision Making Model

Principles and Rules in Question

Principle I, Rule M - Individuals who hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence shall use independent and evidence-based clinical judgment, keeping paramount the best interests of those being served.

Principle II, Rule G - Individuals shall make use of technology and instrumentation consistent with accepted professional guidelines in their areas of practice. When such technology is not available, an appropriate referral may be made.
When and how do I report a VIOLATION?

Before reporting....

Before formally reporting a violation, discuss the concerning behavior or actions with the individual. It is possible that a misunderstanding occurred.

The individual may be unaware that his or her behavior or actions are unethical and in violation of the governing documents of our profession.

The individual should be given the opportunity to voluntarily change his or her behavior. (Principle IV, Rule M)
If the behavior continues...

- If the individual continues to engage in the unethical behavior, a formal report of a violation should be made.

- When an inquiry is made to ISHA, the committee responds with information to advise and educate the consumer or practitioner, including information on how to file a formal complaint.

  - IDFPR [https://www.idfpr.com/Admin/Complaints.asp](https://www.idfpr.com/Admin/Complaints.asp)
  - ISHA [http://www.ishail.org/reporting-a-violation](http://www.ishail.org/reporting-a-violation)

Closing thoughts

Ethics is important in all we do!

It is not black and white but a gray area and determining the potential ethical dilemma is based on the specific circumstances and facts case by case.

Ethics takes practice. Stay informed as ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.

Seek reliable professional resources.

Consider having scheduled ethics discussions and education within your workplace.
Resources and References


Ethics Education Committee. (n.d.). Retrieved February 2, 2020, from https://www.ishaia.org/Division-for-Professional-Affairs-

Examples of Typical Ethics Inquiries. (n.d.). Retrieved February 2, 2020, from https://www.asha.org/Practice/ethics/Ethics-Inquiries/

