



ETHICAL DECISION GUIDE

For Difficult Clinical and Non-Clinical Situations

1



Identify

1. Name the problem clearly. What is the decision to be made?
2. Identify the affected parties. Whose values are central? What are they?

2



Reflect

3. Think about principles: autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice.
4. Consider obligations: ideals, rules, laws, or duties.
5. Other factors: relationships, circumstances, or constraints.

3



Deliberate

6. Assess risks and benefits for the decision maker and those affected. What will the ripple effect be?

4



Resolve

7. Make a choice. Evaluate your process. Did you do the right thing?
8. Address moral distress and policy implications.