

Ethics and Values Case Studies



Directions: Break into groups. Read the following case studies and discuss your answers.

Situation #1. Jane was talking on the phone to a friend and promised not to tell anyone about the call. It sounded like the friend had committed a serious crime--one where a person was harmed. It also sounded like this friend had the potential to do further harm to other people. She was overheard by another person who demanded that Jane give her the name of the person she was talking to so he could call the police. What should Jane do?

Situation #2. You are working at the neighborhood video store. A large order of CD's has just been delivered, and it is your job to check the materials against the invoice and distribute them to the various departments. Somehow the company doubled the order but only invoiced the store for one copy of each of the CD's. You know that no one will know if you take the "extras" and sell them to your friends--they are great CD's. What should you do?

Situation #3. There has been a lot of talk about impending layoffs. Fred noticed his friend, Jerry, who is one of the supervisors, was in a meeting with the other executives. Since he and Jerry are good friends (and Jerry is also somewhat of a talker) he asked him if anyone in their unit was going to be laid off. Jerry said that Phoebe, was going to be laid off and asked Fred to keep this information confidential. Phoebe approached Fred and said she heard a rumor that she was going to be laid off and asked if he knew if this was true. Fred knows that Phoebe's husband has been ill, and she really needs the job because it is their only income. Should Fred tell Phoebe the truth so she can start looking for another job?

Situation #4. Sheila's grandmother is going to be 75 and every one of her children and grandchildren are going to be at the surprise birthday party on Friday. On Tuesday, when the week's work schedule is posted, Sheila notices that she has been scheduled to work on Friday. She is really upset, although she knows she should have asked for the day off as soon as she knew about the party. She will be the only grandchild not at the party if she has to work. She is thinking about calling in sick.

Situation #5. You and a fellow worker have been asked to do an inventory at the store on Saturday. That's okay with you; you can make a little extra money. Your fellow worker, however, has a family and really doesn't like to work on Saturday because it cuts into his family time. Is this an ethical dilemma?