

Examples of Ethical Dilemmas

Accounting:

Your supervisor enters your office and asks you for a check for \$150.00 for expenses he tells you he incurred entertaining a client last night. He submits receipts from a restaurant and lounge. At lunch your supervisor's girlfriend stops by to pick him up for lunch and you overhear her telling the receptionist what a great time she had at dinner and dancing with your supervisor the night before. What do you do?

Bank Teller:

You have worked as a bank teller for several months when one of the other tellers who has become a good friend tells you that her daughter is extremely ill and that she must have an operation to survive. She also tells you that she has no insurance and the operation will cost \$10,000. Sometime later you ask her about her daughter and she tells you she is just fine now. She then confides in you that she took \$10,000.00 from a dormant account at the bank to pay for the operation. She assures you that she has already started paying it back and will continue to do so until it is all returned. What do you do?

Computers:

In your spare time at work, you have developed a new spreadsheet program on the personal computer in your office. It is even more powerful, yet easier to use than anything on the market. You share your new program with a friend who encourages you to market it on your own because you could probably make an incredible profit in a very short time. This is a very attractive option, yet you developed it using company equipment and during time that you were at work. What do you do?

Journalism/Advertising

Your newspaper has published a report on a national study, which concluded that bottled water has virtually no health advantages over the tap water in more cities, including yours. The study included comments from local health storeowners and water distributors challenging the study. The AquaPure Bottled Water Company, advertising account worth over \$75,000 a year, has threatened to pull its account with your newspaper unless you run another story of equal prominence, focusing on the benefits of bottled water. What do you do?

Law Enforcement

You are a rookie officer assigned to a training officer for the first six months of your employment. The training officer is a 20-year veteran and is a close friend of the Assistant Chief of Police and the brother-in-law of the Watch Commander. The third day that you are working with him you respond to a burglary call at a local convenience store. It is 2:30 am and the manager has been notified. You are directed to wait 30-35 minutes for his arrival. A short time later you observe your partner take a soda, candy and a bag of chips. He consumes the soda and chips. When the manager arrives, the two of you depart. What, if anything, should you do?

Personnel

Your company has a firm policy regarding cases of theft of company property. Used company equipment is on a table to be sold by bid each month. You see a valued employee who is 2 months from retirement slip an electric drill from the table and put it in his car before the day of the sale. What so you do?

Real Estate

A lady from out of town calls you to list her deceased parent's home in Liberty. She is not sure what it is worth, but says she will be happy to get \$50,000.00 for the home. You look at the home and feel it is worth at least \$75,000, and realize it would be perfect for your brother. What do you do?

Retailing

You are the buyer for a retail-clothing store. Your store has a policy of not accepting gifts. However, over the years, salesmen have offered, and other employees have accepted lunch, theater and baseball tickets. You arrive home from the office and find a new TV and DVD player on your doorstep with a note that says: "A personal gift for our long standing friendship. Enjoy it with your family in good health. The Jones Clothing Company" What do you do?

Teacher

You have a student who is from a single parent family. The student must work to attend college. However, the job is interfering with the student's performance and several assignments have not been turned in. You have determined that a "D" is all the student can make when a counselor informs you that the student needs a "C" to qualify for an academic scholarship. What do you do?

