



YOU FIND YOURSELF IN AN ETHICAL CONFLICT.

Ethical dilemmas are defined as those situations in which a choice must be made, but it may contradict with your ethical principles. You may need to make a decision for the best interest of your patient/client, even if it is against your personal values or the best practices of your profession. The different belief systems, perspectives and attitudes can raise various ethical issues that can be hard to manage. In such incidents, knowledge about other cultures and respect to the different perspectives are needed to deal with the moral dilemmas. At the same time though, you need to follow the Code of Ethics of your profession and the laws of your country to make a sound decision. Also, supervision can be helpful since you can have very constructive guidance on managing such ethical issues. Anyhow, each situation you face, makes you a more experienced and thoughtful professional.

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

A young boy from Afghanistan that you see regularly and have developed a good relationship, confides in you an important incident from his past life. And he right after, asks you “You’re not gonna tell my mom, are you?”. Suddenly, you find yourself in a situation where you don’t know how to handle it. You know that you have to speak with his mum but you find it also, unethical from your side to betray the trust that he has shown to you.

SOLUTION

The social worker consulted her colleagues that suggested her about the best ways to talk with the child. She also, had to report the incident based on the Code of Ethics and the laws.

OPTION
01

Consult your Code of Ethics to find supportive information and seek help from your colleagues.

OPTION
02

Respect your patient's/client's will and beliefs. Search for alternative ways if possible, to reach the goals in your therapeutic relationship.

OPTION
03

Self-reflect on the situation. Ask yourself if you judge your patient's/client's actions based on your moral system. Think about the reasons you felt frustration and what you could do in the future.

OPTION
04

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