

# Ethical Decision Making with Clients

Based on Reamer & Conrad's Model

1. **Determine:** Is there an ethical dilemma or issue?

Looking at personal, institutional, professional, and client values is there a difference in these values within the situation and how it could be handled?

2. **Identify:** Key values and principles involved in the situation.

What are the values and principles that are in play? Do the client's values/principles go against the NASW Code of Ethics?

3. **Rank:** What are the most relevant values and principles within the situation?

What makes one ethical principle or value more important than another in this situation? Use your best professional judgment.

4. **Develop:** What is the plan of action?

Talk to the client and trusted colleagues about the situation and risks involved. What support is there for your actions?

5. **Implement:** Following the core social work values and the NASW Code of Ethics, put your plan into action.

Do what is right based on your professional judgement and the NASW Code of Ethics.

6. **Reflect:** What are the consequences? What was the outcome?

Do you need to seek out further training on this issue? Do policies need to be updated?

## Reference

*ETH3338 - SECTION 2: BEST PRACTICE MODELS OF ETHICAL DECISION MAKING.*  
yourceus.com. (n.d.). <https://www.yourceus.com/pages/eth3338-section-ii-best-practice-models-of-ethical-decision-making>.