

Ethical Decision Making Model *

Ethical decisions should be made in a systematic and logical way that recognizes that there are multiple points of view in most dilemmas. Circumstances requiring ethical decisions are rarely clear-cut, and they generally involve numerous interests and competing obligations. Many ethical decision-making models exist that can be useful for analyzing and resolving ethical dilemmas in victim service. Most of them are six to eight-step processes that require:

1. Assess case details.
2. Separate practical considerations from ethical considerations.
3. Identify possible courses of action.
 - Determine the potential upsides of the following courses of action? What are the potential downsides?
4. Select the best option and action.
5. Evaluate the outcomes.

*Adapted from: Hook, Melissa (2005). *Ethics in Victims Services*. (pp.71-77). Baltimore, Maryland: Sidran Institute Press.