

Ethical Issues

Which of these warrant ethical caution? Which are ethical dilemmas and which are ethical temptations?

1. The Internal Revenue Service mistakenly refunds you \$1,000 more than you calculated. You re calculate and still believe it is \$1,000 too much. Do you try to clarify the matter, or do you let it go?
2. The W-2 Form from your employer is \$10,000 short. Do you go ahead and submit your tax return and say nothing?
3. You have friends who live out of state. They have a child who wants to enroll in UVA. They are not able to afford the high out-of-state tuition and ask if you will allow their child to list your home as her/his permanent address. What is your answer? Will the answer be different if it is your niece or nephew involved?
4. One of your young relatives is terminally ill according to three medical judgments. The immediate family has told the individual that he has a good chance of recovery. You visit him and he asks you to be candid with him. What do you say?
5. You have access to a reproduction machine. You need flyers to send to parents of a sports team you coach. Can you justify this as a community service and therefore ethical? What if you work for the Department of Defense and they encourage employees to do community services? Your unit has used grading equipment to level soccer fields.
6. You knowingly exceed speed limits on a regular basis. You know from experience that police never cite speeding within a ten-mile excess. Is it more unethical to exceed the limit 30 MPH or 10 MPH?
7. You work for the government. You are not allowed to make personal long distance calls. You get a call from someone in government from out of town and they leave a message for you to call back to their work number. You have never had business exchanges with this person and suspect that it may be a personal matter. What do you do?
8. You are on a business trip and your company has authorized you to rent a car for necessary travel. Do you use it to drive 100 miles to a ski resort on the weekend? What about to go to a restaurant ten miles away from your hotel, although there are ample eating places within walking distance?
9. Have you ever copied copyrighted software?
10. Your government supervisor believes in building teamwork in his office. He announces that the office will take a Wednesday afternoon off to attend a baseball game. He says workers will not be charged leave. What do you do?
11. You very much want to go to a military academy. The academy requires 20/20 vision. You know one eye is weak and does not meet the standard. When the examiner asks you to cover one eye (your good eye), do you leave a slit between fingers so that you can see with your good eye? Once you are in the academy and learn the meaning of honor, do you confess and leave the academy?

You observe the actions of your friends in each of these situations. What do you do?