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Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Ethics Training For District Directors





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What are ethics?

- Standards of conduct which indicate how one should behave based on principles of right or wrong



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What are ethics?

- Two basic aspects to ethics:
 - discerning right from wrong
 - commitment to do what is right



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What is ethics?

- Ethics is an action concept, not something to think or argue about



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Ethics and Morality

- Historically, there is no difference between the terms
- In modern times, morals are identified with a more personal concept of values (especially concerning religion, sex, drinking, gambling, etc.)



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Values vs. Ethics

- Ethics is concerned with how a moral person should behave
- Values simply concern various beliefs and attitudes that determine personal behavior



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Nonethical values

- Pertains to with things we find personally important
- Examples – money, fame, status, happiness, personal freedom



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Core Ethical Values

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Justice and Fairness
- Caring
- Civic Virtue and Citizenship



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Five Steps To Principled Reasoning

- Clarify
- Evaluate
- Decide
- Implement
- Monitor and Modify



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Justifying Unethical Conduct

- If it's necessary, it's ethical
- If it's legal and permissible, it's proper
- I'm doing this for you
- I'm just fighting fire with fire
- It doesn't hurt anybody
- It can't be wrong, everybody else does it
- I've got it coming
- I can still be objective



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Summary

- The person in a position that requires decision making (and that's most of us) can use the principles of ethics to assist them in making the best decision.