

Ethical Genogram Questionnaire

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EXERCISE 1

Rank order the following statements, from 1 to 5 with:

1 = MOST IMPORTANT
5 = LEAST IMPORTANT

	I believe that I am obligated to protect people from harm by maximizing anticipated benefits and minimizing the possible risks of harm.
	I believe that all individuals have the right to self-determination, and that they should have the freedom to choose their own direction in life.
	I believe that I am obligated to avoid doing any harm to clients, whether intentionally or unintentionally.
	I believe that all individuals deserve equal treatment, regardless of sex, religion, cultural background, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class or disability status.
	I believe that I am obligated to make promises in good faith, and must honor any and all commitments to clients, in order to maintain client's trust.

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EXERCISE 2

Rank order the following scenarios from 1 to 5, in terms of how difficult they would be for you to handle:

1 = MOST DIFFICULT TO HANDLE

5 = LEAST DIFFICULT TO HANDLE

	A client who has 4 years of sobriety makes a decision to “test the waters” at an upcoming wedding, and have at least a class of champagne for the toast.
	A client of a different culture from yours presents with all the symptoms of an Axis I disorder. However he/she also could be acting in a culturally appropriate manner. In order to treat the client, you must give an Axis I diagnosis to an insurance company; the diagnosis will become a part of the client’s medical history.
	While seeing a couple in counseling, you explicitly stated that you would not keep secrets for either partner. However, one partner discloses to you alone that he is filing for bankruptcy in his business and is embarrassed to tell his overly critical partner. In tears, he begs you not to mention it.
	A client of a different culture from yours has a middle school aged child who may need services. You do not see children at that age, but refer to a local colleague who does. In fact, this colleague provides many client referrals to you also. However the client says “Oh, no. <i>I’ve been there. They don’t treat people like me right, they think we’re stupid.</i> ” This confirms a suspicion that you have had based on previous referrals.
	You encourage a very passive client of yours to begin to be more assertive. The client fears that she will upset her family if she confronts their ongoing substance abuse. You know that her passivity is getting in the way of her explicit goals to “move on” from her past and “get ahead” in the world.

Questions for the Ethical Genogram

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Father (parental figure) –

- List the primary values that he spoke of (words)
- List the primary values he lived by (behavior)

Mother (maternal figure) –

- List the primary values that she spoke of (words)
- List the primary values she lived by (behavior)

How did your father make tough decisions? (2-3 words)

How did your mother make tough decisions? (2-3 words)

Father: From where did his ethical decision-making style come from? What were his parents' styles? Do you remember any particular stories or incidents that demonstrate any of these styles?

Mother: From where did her ethical decision-making style come from? What were her parents' styles? Do you remember any particular stories or incidents that demonstrate any of these styles?

Was there conflict or disagreement between your mother and father when it came to making difficult moral or ethical decisions? Who usually prevailed? Why?

Do you remember a time when a tough moral or ethical decision had to be made – what do you remember about it? Who made it? How did they make the decision (process)?

Do you remember a time when a tough moral or ethical decision SHOULD have been made – but wasn't? Who was involved? What do you know about why a decision was not made?

Is there anyone else who influenced your ethical decision-making – siblings, friends, teachers, clergy, and mentors? How did they influence you?

Were there additional influences on your ethical decision-making style – cultural, religious, and philosophical, etc.? How were you influenced by these?

Did you ever break any rules or the law in your youth? Were you caught? How did your parents deal with it?

In general, how was punishment/consequences for infractions dealt with by your parents – harshly or leniently – consistently or inconsistently?