

Name the Dilemma

Dilemma = Two conflicting principles, values, standards, roles, obligations.

On this worksheet, outline the conflicting sides of the ethical choice (It can be helpful to think as X vs. Y). Describe the issues/factors of the dilemma.

1. Mrs. D. is 76 years old and has just been diagnosed with diabetes. The illness has been explained to her. She has adequate mental capacity to understand the role of medication in her illness. She expresses an unwillingness to take insulin.

Dilemma:

2. Mr. F., age 82, lives with his son John who is mentally ill and unemployed. Mr. F. relies on John to pay the bills and shop for food. The utilities are about to be shut off and there is no food in the house. Mr. F. wants John to remain in the home and John says he is caring for his father very well.

Dilemma:

3. Mrs. S, age 79, was hospitalized due to a fall. She is ready for discharge. She has lived in her own home for 50 years. She has 3 cats that she loves very much and she is very worried about them. The home is in disrepair and is very cluttered, but she states she wants to go home. The social worker is concerned that Mrs. S. won't be able to manage at home and feels she would do better in an assisted living or long-term care facility. A nephew in California is contacted and he said that he would sell her home and take her with him to California.

Dilemma:

4. Mrs. C. is in need of services but refuses to divulge her income to the social worker. She says this is none of the government's business, and she should be entitled to services for free.

Dilemma:

5. Mrs. B, age 95, is frail and needs assistance with all activities of daily living. She is cared for by her 72 year old daughter Ruth who lives a half hour away. Ruth is undergoing chemotherapy and also has a problem with her back. Mrs. B refuses a home health aide care because she doesn't want a stranger in her house who might steal from her; she says that Ruth has always cared for her and Ruth should continue to do so.

Dilemma: