

Dilemmas in Practice

When evaluating the ethical scenarios, outline what factors need to be considered when choosing how to resolve the situation. As part of the discussion, evaluate what might be the consequence of the strategy (both short and long term outcomes).

Dilemma	Strategies for Ethical Management
<p>Lori is a white social worker employed by adult protective services and provides welfare checks on senior citizens when family, friends, or neighbors call with concerns about a senior's care, safety or accommodation. Lori is dispatched to a run-down neighborhood with a high rate of drug dealing, prostitution, robbery and murder to the house of an isolated 72-year old man who has not been seen by neighbors for two weeks. When she knocks on the door, a very large man in his twenties tells her to get lost (but in more colorful language) before she can get a word in edge-wise. ⁱ</p>	<p>Factors to Consider</p>
	<p>Potential Consequences</p>
<p>Essie (73) is an African American woman whose role in life was to take care of everyone else. Ever since she had a stroke and became non-ambulatory, she has had to relinquish this role and is dependent on her children for her care. Her children have been neglecting many of her needs. One son recently moved away and her two daughters are working double shifts just to try to make ends meet, As a result, Essie is left alone for long periods of time, unable to feed herself or go to the bathroom. As her social worker, you offer help. Essie refuses help saying she has managed her whole life living at home and she plans on continuing here until she dies. ⁱⁱ</p>	<p>Factors to Consider</p>
	<p>Potential Consequences</p>

<p>A hospital social worker provided services to a 52-year old woman who was recovering from hip surgery. In addition to her physical problems, the patient also manifested some modest difficulty in learning new information and remembering learned information, and performing motor functions. The client's sister who visited the patient regularly, insisted that the social worker attempt to place her sister in an assisted living arrangement. She was very concerned about her sister's health and the risks she faced if she returned to her home to live alone. The client, however, adamantly refused to go to an assisted living arrangement and insisted that the social worker arrange home health care, the client said she was willing to assume any risk associated with her living alone.ⁱⁱⁱ</p>	<p>Factors to Consider</p>
	<p>Potential Consequences</p>
<p>Karen has worked in APS for a long time. She felt she had a talent for the work and had felt fulfilled. In recent months, Karen has noted that the clients she is working with have presented with more complex profiles and the work is becoming more difficult. The outcome was poor for one of the individuals she had worked with recently. She has begun to doubt her abilities and is contemplating taking some time off but knows that the others on her team are also very busy and would have a hard time absorbing her duties. She feels very ineffective and exhausted. She has felt that her efforts were not recognized by administration either. Karen has seen co-workers who dislike their jobs and let it be known to their co-workers and she is concerned she will become one of them.</p>	<p>Factors to Consider</p>
	<p>Potential Consequences</p>

ⁱ Horn, T. (2011) *Is it ethical? 101 scenarios in everyday social work practice*. (p. 101) Harrisburg, PA: White Hat Communications

ⁱⁱ Barsky, A. (2010). *Ethics and values in social work: An integrated approach for a comprehensive curriculum*. (p. 411) NY: Oxford University Press.

ⁱⁱⁱ Reamer, F. (2006). *Ethical standards in social work: A review of the code of ethics*. (2nd ed.) (p. 52) Washington DC: NASW Press.[Adapted]