



Learn More, Read Less

Quick Professional Learning for School Counselors On-the-Go

Title	<u>Exploratory study of common and challenging ethical dilemmas experienced by Professional School Counselors</u>
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Summary	Literature review and study on common and challenging ethical dilemmas for Professional School Counselors with focus on different levels.
Topic / Platform	Ethics / Article

Key Takeaways	Implications for Practice	Level Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidentiality is an ill defined legal area, but some scholars believe parental rights supersede confidentiality. Confidentiality is the most common and most challenging ethical dilemma Most challenging ethical dilemmas; student confidentiality, dual relationship with faculty, parental rights, acting on information of student danger to themselves or others. Counselors are not referring to the ASCA ethical code regularly Maintaining confidentiality (student records and personal disclosure) are most common ethical dilemmas, but not the most challenging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek out a supervisor or colleague for consultation in resolving ethical dilemmas. Cases of sexual harassment there is a responsibility to inform school authorities, and initially without sharing the the victim's identity. When it comes to information shared with teachers, find the most helpful information and get the parent/student's permission to share Educate school community on responsibilities regarding confidentiality Refer to ASCA ethical code regularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary school counselors (ESC) are more likely to break confidentiality than middle school counselors (MSC), who are more likely to break confidentiality than high school counselors (HSC) ESC have more contact and consultation with families than MSC & HSC ESC & MSC experience higher rates of challenge than HSC in facing dual relationships with faculty, student confidentiality and parental rights. MSC reported dual relationships as more common and challenging that ESC and HSC.

Fun Fact... Did You Know?

Did you know that being a member of PSCHC and other professional associations (MSCA, ASCA) could help you legally? Your membership proves that you hold yourself to a *higher standard* of professionalism, which could help your case should a legal situation arise.



Note: PDs-on-the-Go are intended to convey general information only, and not to provide legal/ethical advice or opinions. When facing an ethical dilemma, it is always best practice to consult with a colleague or supervisor and to document your ethical decision-making process.

