







Ethical Lenses

RIGHTS 	<p>Rights are entitlements or liberties; they reflect normative determinations about what is owed to people. This perspective focuses on respect for dignity and autonomy. Rights can come into conflict with each other.</p> <p><i>How can we best protect and respect the moral rights of those affected?</i></p>
JUSTICE 	<p>The justice perspective focuses on the distribution of benefits and burdens among stakeholders. Treating people equally might still be unfair, if some of them are very differently situated (e.g. more vulnerable) than others.</p> <p><i>How can we treat all human stakeholders equally, or, if unequally, then fairly based on some defensible ethical standard?</i></p>
UTILITARIAN 	<p>The utilitarian perspective seeks to quantify and maximize aggregate happiness. It aims to produce the most overall well-being in the long term, taking into consideration all stakeholders.</p> <p><i>How can we maximize happiness and minimize harm among those affected?</i></p>
COMMON GOOD 	<p>The common good approach focuses on the conditions that are required in order for all members of a society to flourish.</p> <p><i>How can we create the conditions required in order for all members of a society to flourish?</i></p>
VIRTUE 	<p>Virtue focuses on the character traits (reflected in habits) that we deem good and that we want to cultivate and encourage in individuals and organizations. It asks how we might excel in fulfilling a particular role or relationship, in particular circumstances.</p> <p><i>How can we cultivate and encourage particular character traits (reflected in habits) that we deem good?</i></p>
CARE ETHICS 	<p>Care ethics is rooted in relationships and in the need to listen and respond to individuals in their specific circumstances. Feelings, concerns, and relationships of all stakeholders are considered.</p> <p><i>How might our personal relationships, social practices, and political institutions be more caring?</i></p>

