

# Ethics

Case Studies

# What are Ethics?

**A system of moral principles, rules and standards of conduct.**

# CASE STUDIES

- Are you an ethical person?
- Read the following mini case studies and decide what you would do.
- Try to find as many “correct” answers as you can.

# Case #1

You are grounded. Your parents are away for the evening. Friends drop by and want you to join them for a hamburger. You know that it will be at least two hours before your parents come home. In sharing the dilemma with your friends, they remind you the punishment given by your parents was not fair. What choice do you make?

# Case #1 Answers

- A. You say no, even though you really want to join them for a hamburger.
- B. You go with your friends and get home before your parents and think all is clear.
- C. You invite your friends to stay at your house and hang out instead of going to the burger joint.
- D. You tell them no, but ask them to bring you a burger because you are hungry.

## Case #2

The clerk at the record store forgot to charge you for one of the CDs you purchased. You realize this as you are walking out of the store. In looking back to the register, there is already a long line. Your first thought is that this wasn't your mistake. Maybe something like this will teach the clerk a lesson about being more careful. Then, you think about how hungry you are and that the money just "saved" could feed you nicely. What do you do?

## Case #2 Answers

- A. Take the money and run.
- B. Go back in the store and wait in line to pay for the item.
- C. Call the store manager and tell him/her what happened when you get home.
- D. Go back in the store and speak with the manager.

## Case #3

You promise a friend you would go to the movies with him on Saturday. After you made the promise, the most popular kid in school invites you to a swim party at his house on the same day. You're thrilled to be invited and really want to go to his swim party. But your friend did not receive an invitation. Should you cancel or uphold your commitment to go to the movies?



# Case #3 Answers

A. Go to the swim party and bring your friend, the more the merrier!

B. Go to the swim party after canceling plans with your friend.

C. Tell your friend you need to reschedule your movie plans and go to the swim party.

D. Go to the movie with your friend and hope you are invited to another party in the future.

## Case #4

You find a wallet containing \$500. No one sees you pick it up. There is a name inside of the wallet.

But, you don't know the owner. In fact, you're not even sure if the address is close to your house. Again, you look around and realize that nobody saw you. No one needs to know that you found the wallet. What will you do?

# Case #4 Answers

A. Take it to the nearest police station and hope they find the person.

B. Take \$100 out of the wallet and return it to the address on the ID. The person doesn't need to know you took \$100. You will still be the hero. After all, they are getting some of it back.

C. Take it to the address on the ID and ask for a reward.

D. Keep all the money and throw the wallet in the bushes.

# Case #5

Over the intercom at your middle school, the principal announces a teacher's laptop has been stolen from her classroom. If it is not turned in by the afternoon, a locker search will take place. You remember when you came to school this morning, you noticed a kid whose locker is next to yours was stuffing what looked like a laptop in his backpack. Do you go down to the office and share what you know with the principal? Do you find the kid and ask if he took it? Maybe he'll give you some money (which you really could use) to have you keep quiet. How should you proceed?

# Case #5 Answers

A. You find the kid and ask him about it. He says, “No, I didn’t take it,” but you see a laptop exactly like the stolen one. You tell him, “I know it was you. If you give me \$20 bucks, I won’t say anything.”

B. You go to the principal and tell him what you saw.

C. You say nothing and that afternoon all lockers were searched and it was found in the kids backpack.

D. You tell the kid you saw him with the teacher’s laptop and he needs to give it back. Reluctantly, he returns it to the teacher’s classroom without turning himself in.