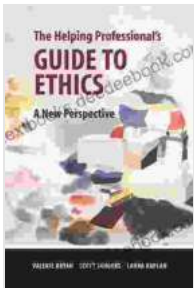


# The Helping Professional Guide To Ethics



## The Helping Professional's Guide to Ethics: Theory in Practice by Valerie Bryan

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1657 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 209 pages  
Lending : Enabled



As a helping professional, you have a unique responsibility to uphold ethical standards in your work. This means being aware of the ethical principles that guide your profession and making decisions that are in the best interests of your clients.

This guide will provide you with an overview of the key ethical principles that helping professionals should follow. We will cover topics such as confidentiality, informed consent, and dual relationships.

## Confidentiality

Confidentiality is one of the most important ethical principles for helping professionals. Your clients need to be able to trust that you will keep their information confidential. This means that you should not share their information with anyone else without their consent.

There are some exceptions to the rule of confidentiality. For example, you may be required to disclose information if you are subpoenaed by a court of law. You may also need to disclose information if you believe that your client is at risk of harming themselves or others.

## **Informed Consent**

Informed consent is another important ethical principle for helping professionals. This means that you must obtain your client's consent before providing them with any services. The consent should be informed, which means that your client must understand the nature of the services, the risks and benefits involved, and the alternatives to the services.

You should obtain informed consent in writing. This will help to protect you and your client in the event of any disputes.

## **Dual Relationships**

Dual relationships occur when a helping professional has a personal relationship with a client. This can create a conflict of interest and can compromise the helping professional's ability to provide objective services.

It is generally not advisable to enter into a dual relationship with a client. However, there may be some situations where it is unavoidable. For example, you may be working with a client who is a friend or family member. In these cases, you should take steps to minimize the potential for conflict of interest and to ensure that you are able to provide objective services.

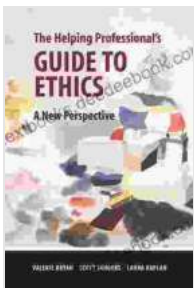
## **Ethical Decision-Making**

Making ethical decisions can be challenging, especially in situations where there is no clear right or wrong answer. However, there are some general principles that you can follow to help you make ethical decisions.

- Identify the ethical issues involved.
- Consider the relevant ethical principles.
- Weigh the potential benefits and risks of each option.
- Make a decision that is in the best interests of your client.

It is also important to seek consultation with other professionals when making ethical decisions. This can help you to get different perspectives on the issue and to make a more informed decision.

Ethics are an essential part of helping professions. By following the ethical principles outlined in this guide, you can help to ensure that you are providing your clients with the best possible care.



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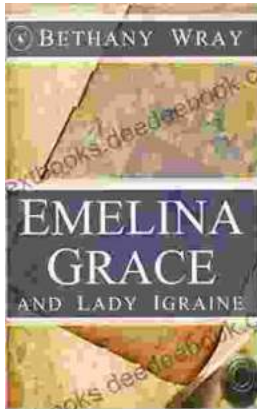
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