

WINDSOR REGIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE CONSULT FORM

All ethical concerns are welcomed by the Ethics Committee. If you have any questions regarding the need for an Ethics Committee Consult, feel free to contact the Ethics Chair (Jill Lord, x-7224).

Please send this referral to Ethics Chair, Jill Lord, in MAHHC Administration. Once a referral is received, you will be contacted so that a meeting can be scheduled with the appropriate people involved. The Ethics Committee policy outlines the referral process.

1. **Date:** _____

2. **Person Requesting Consult:** _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

3. **Describe the issue, problem or concern you would like the committee to address:**

4. **In your opinion, who should be present in the Ethics Consult meeting?**

Please circle: Urgent Non-urgent

Thank you for this referral!

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AND DECISION MAKING

I. Definitions and Principles

- A. Ethics: Ways of examining the moral life
- B. Overall principle: Universal respect for life
- C. Guiding principles
 - 1. Autonomy
 - * person's right to choose own course of action
 - 2. Veracity
 - * truth telling; informed consent
 - 3. Beneficence
 - * positive steps to help others or to prevent/remove harm
 - 4. Non maleficence
 - * avoiding intentional infliction of harm
 - 5. Advocacy
 - * assisting to obtain necessary information
 - 6. Confidentiality
 - * NOT disclosing information except to those directly concerned with patient's welfare
 - 7. Justice
 - * giving others what is due or owed;
 - * distributing social benefits and burdens equitably and fairly
 - 8. Fidelity
 - * establishing trust; keeping promises
 - 9. Reparation
 - * honoring the duty to make up for a wrong
 - 10. Gratitude
 - * honoring the duty to make up for a good deed

II. The Ethical Decision-Making Process

- A. Identify issue/ethical questions*
- B. Gather information/medical indications, patient preferences, quality of life, contextual features*
- C. Determine the guiding ethical principles involved
- D. Describe the alternatives, listing risk/benefits of each from all involved person's perspectives
- E. Make the decision/recommendations*
- F. Convey the decision to affected groups or individuals
- G. Follow up to ascertain outcomes and effectiveness of decision
- H. Prevent or anticipate the conflict from reoccurring individually or systematically.*

Hospice Certification Course

Section XIV

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*With adaptations from Vermont Ethics Network as indicated

This is a guide. It is recognized that the above definitions and principles are not inclusive. The Ethics Committee utilizes other resources and professionals in the ethical decision making process.