

2018 ITE Mid-Colonial District Annual Conference

ETHICS FOR ENGINEERS

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Learning Objectives

- Identify Ethical Issues & Create a Framework for Resolution.
- Analyze Professional Ethics & Standards of Professional Conduct.
- Understand how Court Decisions may Impact Ethical Obligations.

Overview and Introduction to Engineering Ethics

What are Engineering Ethics?

Merriam-Webster's defines ethics as:

- *a*: a set of moral principles : a theory or system of moral values
- ***b*: the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group <professional *ethics*>**
- *c*: a guiding philosophy
- *d*: a consciousness of moral importance

NSPE

Code of Ethics for Engineers

PREAMBLE

- Engineering is an important and learned profession.
- Direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people
- Services provided require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity *and must be dedicated to the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.*

NSPE

A Few of the Fundamental Canons

- *Hold paramount* the safety, health & welfare of the Public.
- Perform services only in areas of competence.
- Act for each employer and client as faithful agents

NSPE Rules of Practice

Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

- If engineers' judgment is overruled under circumstances that endanger life or property, they shall notify their employer or client and such other authority as may be appropriate.
- Engineers shall approve only those engineering documents that are in conformity with applicable standards.

Duty of Care

- A legal Obligation
- Requires you to adhere to a standard of reasonable care while performing any acts.
- Who do you owe this legal obligation?
 - To those that could foreseeably be harmed by your actions.

Standard of Care

Unless he represents that he has greater or less skill or knowledge, one who undertakes to render services in the practice of a profession or trade is required to exercise the skill and knowledge normally possessed by members of that profession or trade on good standing in similar communities.

Restatement (Second) of Torts § 299A

Standard of Care

“An architect [or engineer] is bound to perform with reasonable care the duties for which he contracts. His client has the right to regard him as skilled in the science of the construction of buildings, and to expect that he will use reasonable and ordinary care and diligence in the application of his professional knowledge to accomplish the purpose for which he is retained. While he does not guarantee a perfect plan or satisfactory result, he does by his contract imply that enjoys ordinary skill and ability in his professional and that he will exercise these attributes without neglect and with a certain exactness of performance to effectuate work properly done”

Bloomsburg Mills, Inc. v. Sordoni Construction Company, 401 Pa. 358, 164 A.2d 201 (1960)

How are You Judged in the Courtroom?



Standard of Care v. Rules of Ethics

“The Superior Court correctly recognized that simply because a lawyer's conduct may violate the rules of ethics does not mean that the conduct is actionable, in damages...”

Maritrans Group, Inc. v. Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz, 602 A.2d 1277 (Pa. 1992)

CASE STUDY

Mid-Block Crosswalk



CASE STUDY

Traffic Signal Warrants

