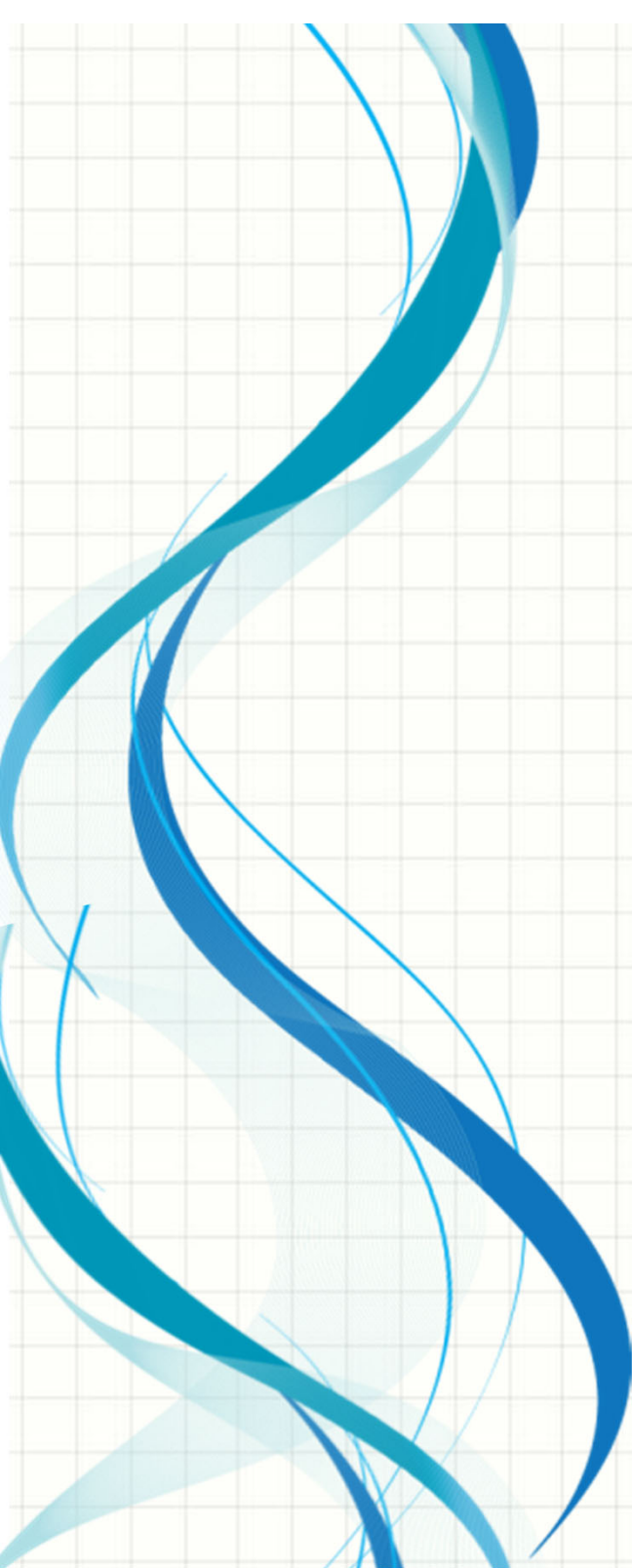




ETHICS

John Marshall, CZO
NCAZO Summer Conference
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ETHICS

VS.


MORALS

How are Ethics and Morals Defined?

- Ethics: The rules of moral conduct governing an individual or group (Merriman-Webster)
- Morals: Concerned with or relating to what is right and wrong in human behavior
(Merriman-Webster)

What's the Difference?

- Ethics: Ethics are external. They can be codes of conduct or a list of rules that are recognized by a certain institution. The institution may be a group, culture, society, profession, or religion.
- Morals: Morality is internal. It is your own personal belief about what is right and wrong. Morals are rules, principles, or other habits that conform to what a person thinks are right or wrong.
(The Battle Between Morals Vs. Ethics, Updated December 21, 2021
<https://www.betterhelp.com/>)
- Exercise:
 1. List the ethics established by your organization.
 2. What are the morals you hold that are non-negotiable?




Ethical and Moral behavior can be mutually exclusive

Organization's Ethics are equal to your Morals

Organization's Ethics are not equal to your Morals

What do you do when the organization's ethics conflict with your morals?



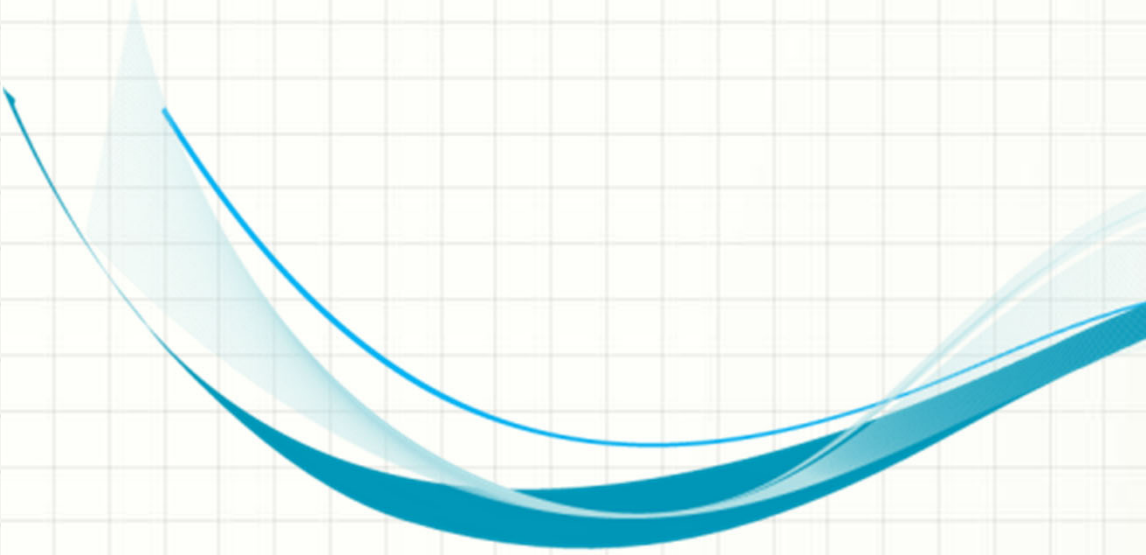


Scenarios emphasizing impact of morals on behavior

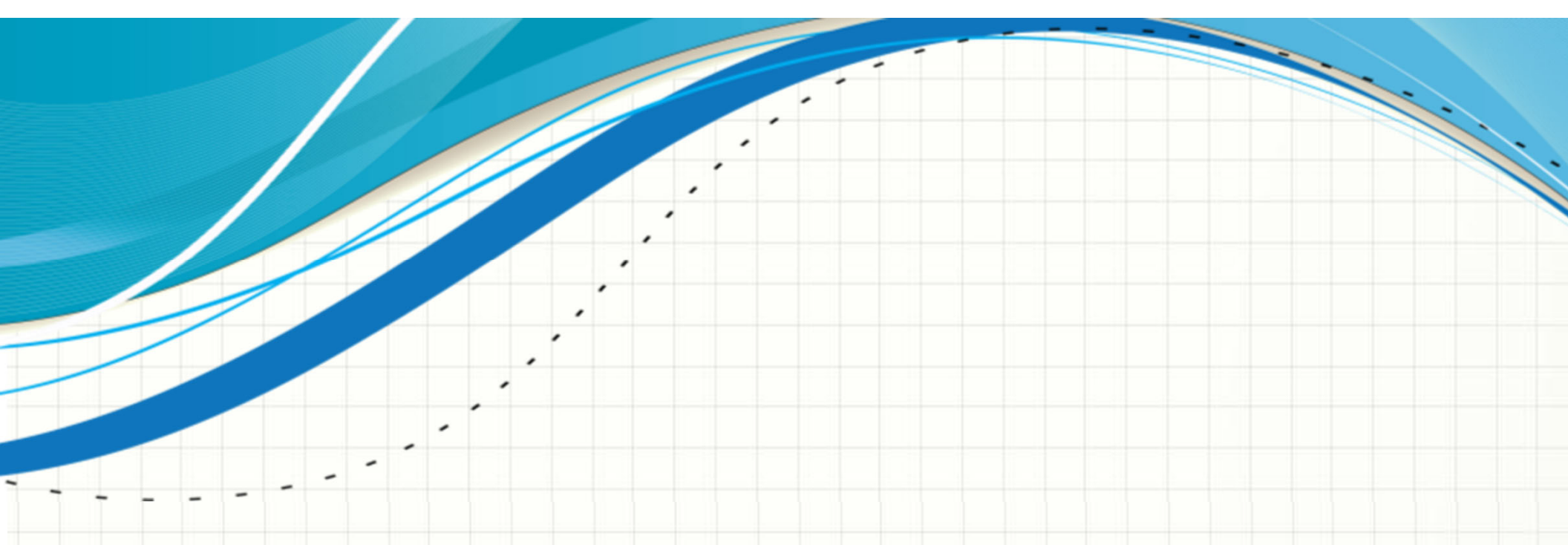
- ① School ethics vs. Guidance Counselor morals
- ② County Clerk of Court uses funds under his supervision to finance personal projects

Scenarios: Conflicts Between Ethics and Morals

- ① As a County Zoning Official you are responsible for enforcing the Zoning Ordinance for a small town within the county. You are inspecting a new sign for the local volunteer fire department and conclude the sign is not located in accordance with the town's ordinance. You have previously written citations for other business signs in the area that were not located properly. After notifying the fire department personnel of the issue, you receive a call from the town mayor. Upon describing the issue to the mayor, he asks you to come to the office of his construction business. Upon meeting with the mayor, you learn that the mayor is also the chief of the volunteer fire department. During the meeting, the mayor suggests you bury the inspection report essentially ignoring the violation.
- ② As a Zoning Official you are investigating a complaint of a business being operated from a residence in violation of the Ordinance. Upon investigation, you determine the owner is operating a dental lab from the attached garage, which is not allowed. The owner produces business licenses issued by the county for the past 7 years indicating his home and business address are the same. He further explains the complaint originated from a disagreement with a neighbor involving their children. The owner invites you into his home to introduce his wife, who turns out to be a quadriplegic. The owner states that he has to work from home to be available to care for his wife and children, one of which is an infant.



Describe a scenario in
which your morals
conflicted with your
organization's adopted
ethics.



WHEN YOUR MORALITY DOESN'T LINE UP WITH THE ETHICS OF THE INSTITUTIONS THAT YOU LIVE WITH, IT CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS. IT MAY CAUSE EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS LIKE DEPRESSION – OR YOU MAY END UP IN LEGAL TROUBLE.

(THE BATTLE BETWEEN MORALS VS. ETHICS, UPDATED DECEMBER 21, 2021

[HTTPS://WWW.BETTERHELP.COM/](https://www.betterhelp.com/))



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