

When faced with an ethical issue, we can use Ethics Frameworks. For most clinical situations, the **IDEA Framework** is best.

I	IDENTIFY - the facts
D	DETERMINE - ethical principles in conflict
E	EXPLORE – options
A	ACT – on your decision, and evaluate it

For help with Ethics or with using the IDEA Framework, please contact us at [ethics@hhhs.ca](mailto:ethics@hhhs.ca)



*Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care*

## Ethics Consultation

**A Guide for:  
Staff,  
Physicians,  
Volunteers,  
Patients,  
Residents, and  
Families.**

# What Is Ethics?

Ethics helps facilitate decision-making and difficult discussions. The goal is to ensure the medical, social, psychological, and emotional needs of everyone are considered in finding a solution.



## How Do I Know When to Call Ethics?

You may need Ethics if you:

- ◆ Disagree with others about a care decision,
- ◆ Continue thinking about an issue long after a decision has been made,
- ◆ Wonder if other beliefs, desires, or values should have been involved,
- ◆ Worry whether what is happening is the right thing to do,
- ◆ Are concerned about rights and freedoms.

## Who Can Request Ethics Services?

- ◆ Anyone may request Ethics support, at any time, and for any reason.
- ◆ A patient, resident, or family need not tell their care team prior to reaching out.

## What Can I Expect?

At a consultation we will:

- ◆ Identify the issue or issues,
- ◆ Clarify the medical, psychological, social information, and context,
- ◆ Identify ethical values and principles involved in the situation,
- ◆ Explore options for resolution,
- ◆ Facilitate decision-making between patients, residents, family, and the health teams.

Ethics will not impose solutions or make any decisions for you.

## How Can I Contact Ethics?

- ◆ You can contact Ethics confidentially at [ethics@hhhs.ca](mailto:ethics@hhhs.ca)

## Who Provides the Consult?

- ◆ Ethicists are professionals with graduate degrees and specialized training in bioethics and consultation.

## Is This Service Confidential?

- ◆ Ethics is bound by HHHS policies concerning the release of patient or resident information.
- ◆ Ethics is also bound by the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*.
- ◆ A summary of the consultation may be added to the patient's health record depending on case-by-case needs.