



# ETHICAL BASIS FOR ADVANCED MEDICAL DIRECTIVES



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**Committee MCH**

righteousness  
conscience  
conventionalities  
discharge  
attitude  
belief  
merit  
temperance  
character  
type  
integrity  
fundamental  
behavior  
fulfill  
norm  
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respectability  
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standards  
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honesty  
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ethos  
plus  
par  
air  
best  
bias  
esse  
path  
oneself  
habits  
policies  
action  
idea  
mode  
Level Books  
mien  
deed  
role  
desert  
virtue  
convention  
excellence  
innocence



The meaning of "ethics" is hard to pin down, and the views many people have about ethics are shaky.



So... What Does Ethics Mean to You?



# What Is Ethics?



Ethics is a systematic study of and reflection on morality.

It is systematic because it is a discipline that uses special methods and approaches to examine moral situations;

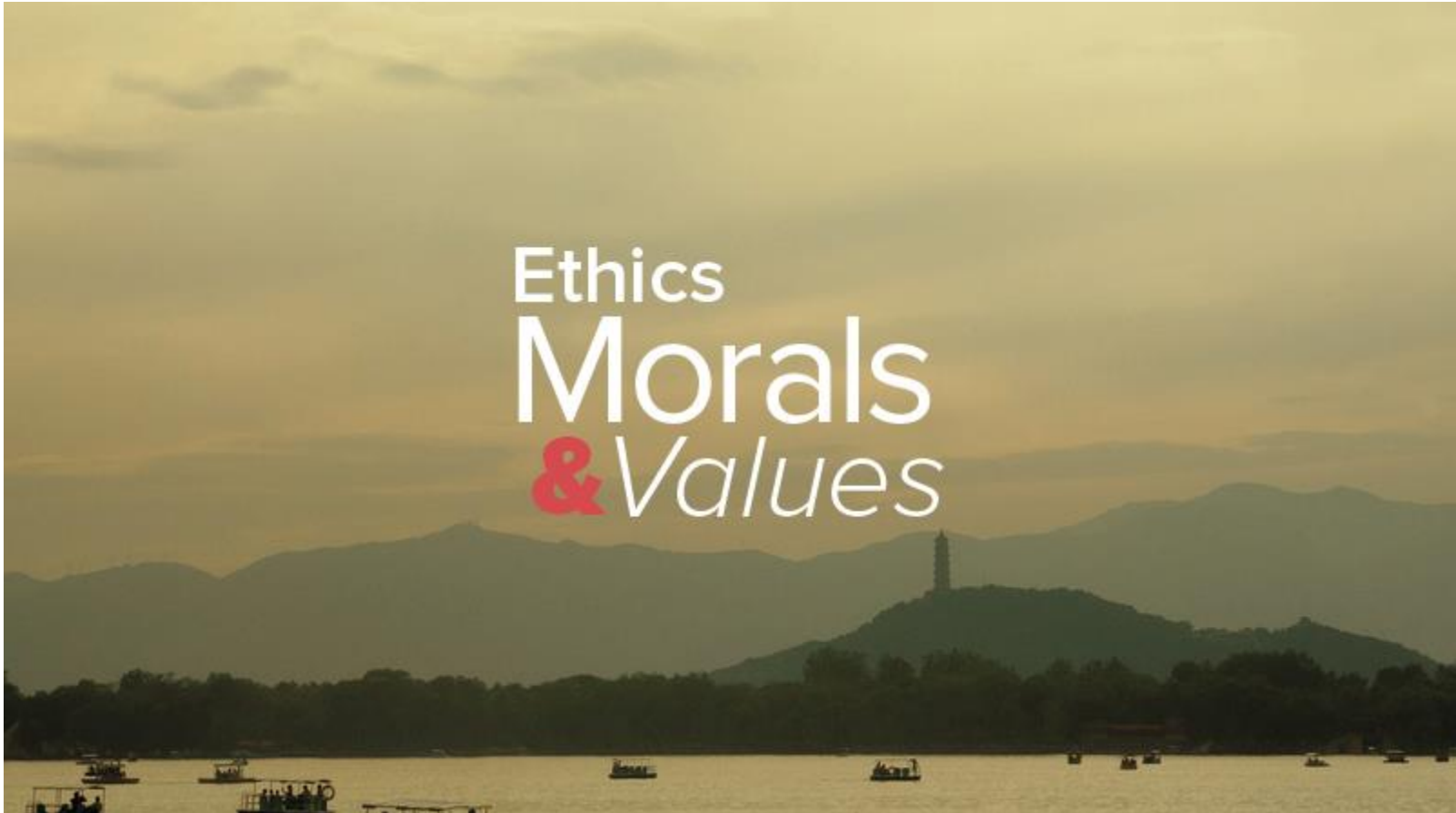
It is also reflection because it consciously calls into question assumptions about existing components of our morality.

Purtilo R. Ethical Dimensions in the Health Professions. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Saunders; 2005:15-16.



“This is the moral and ethical thing to do.”

Ethics  
Morals  
& Values





# What Is Morality?

- Morality is the sum of attitudes, conduct and character traits that describe how humans in a particular setting have agreed to live so that everyone can exist in harmony.
- Morality helps to define basic shared values and goals.





“Morality is an informal public system applying to all rational persons, governing behavior that affects others, and includes what are commonly known as values, ideals, and virtues and has the lessening of evil or harm as its goal.”





# Four Basic Principles of Ethics

Each principle addresses a value that arises in the interaction which frequently occurs with ethical dilemmas.

These four principles address the issues of fairness, honesty, and respect in our relationships with fellow human beings.

Autonomy

Benevolence

Do No Harm

Justice





# Principles of Ethics: Autonomy

- People have the right to control what happens to them and their bodies.
- This principle simply means that an informed, competent adult has the right to control what happens to him or her because they are free and rational.
- These decisions must be respected by everyone, even if those decisions are not believed to be in the best interest of the person.





FIDELITY

- Truth telling is fundamental to respecting autonomy



# Principles of Ethics: Benevolence

## Do The Most Good!

- All care providers must strive to improve their clients well being, to do the most good for the person in every situation.
- But what is good for one person may not be good for another, so each situation should be considered individually.
- Other values that might conflict with benevolence may need to be considered.





# Principles of Ethics: Do No Harm

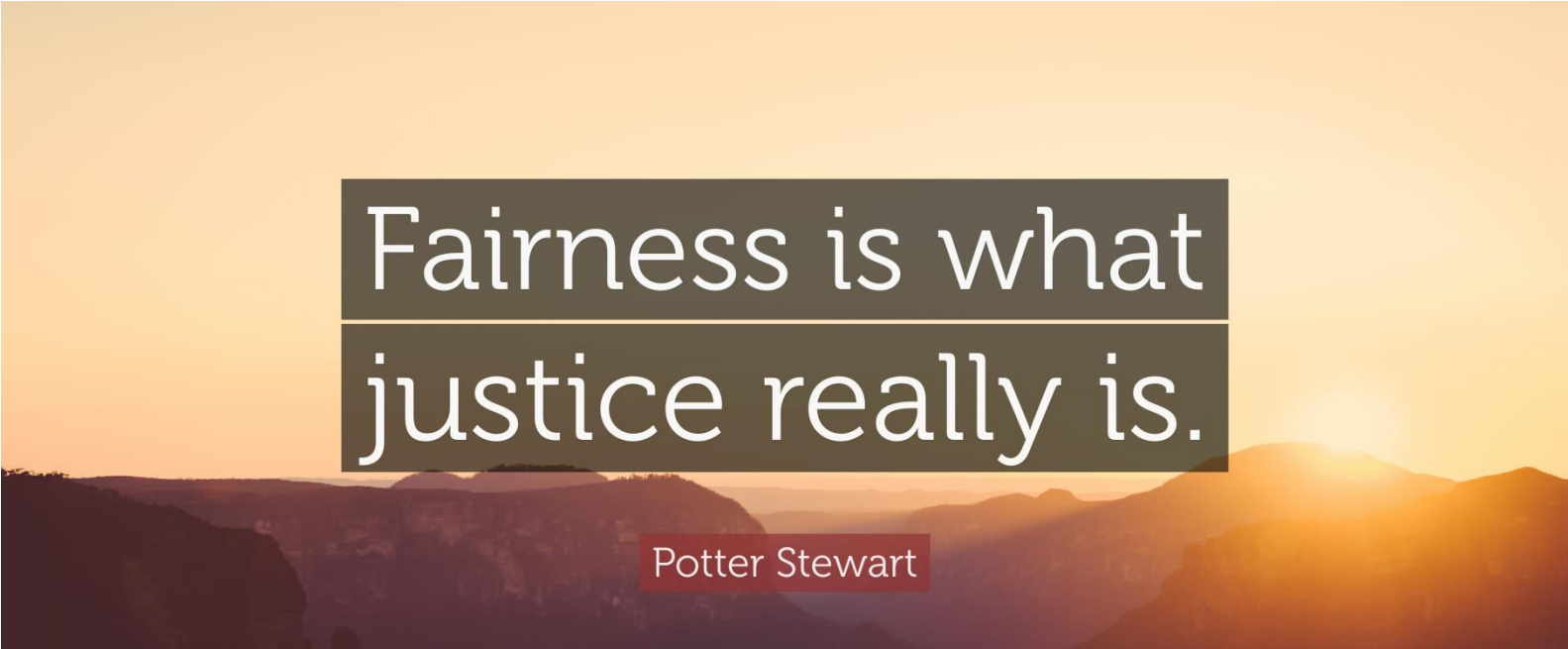
- This is the bedrock of ethics.
- In every situation, care givers should avoid causing harm to those in their care.
- You should also be aware of the doctrine of *double effect*, where an action intended for good unintentionally causes more harm than good.
- This doctrine helps you make difficult decisions about whether actions with double effects can be undertaken.

Do. No. Harm.



## Principles of Ethics: Justice

- The fourth principle demands that you should try to be as just and fair as possible when dealing with the person in your care.
- You should be able to justify your actions in every situation.



Fairness is what  
justice really is.

Potter Stewart



# DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS





# Monadnock

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