



Module 1 Unit 9

Introduction to Ethics: CONFIDENTIALITY

Ethics and Counselling

- **ETHICS**

The study of right and wrong

- **MORALITY**

Related to specific dilemmas and issues.
Was the wrong intended?



- **Moral** – Enabling a person
- **Immoral** – Disabling a person
- **Amoral** – Neither enabling or disabling

For example:

A man is up a tree; a branch breaks and he falls. It would be moral to help him, immoral to laugh and kick him. The branch had no intent to harm and is amoral.



Care-givers & Codes of Ethics

- As far back as the 5th century BC it has been recognised that care-givers need to be ethical in their decision-making and practice.
- Helping professions in the Western World have some form of ethical code and or mission statement.
- Some make an ethical pledge at induction and graduation ceremonies e.g. clergy, barristers and doctors.



Care-givers & Codes of Ethics

- These public declarations constitute the social and ethical framework of what it means to be a member of that profession.
- Operating within an ethical framework keeps helpers ethically grounded and centrally focused on the client's needs.



6 Ethical Principles

- **Beneficence** Do Good
- **Non-maleficence** Avoid harm
- **Autonomy** Let people make their own choices
- **Justice** Be fair
- **Confidentiality** Respect client's privacy
- **Veracity** Be truthful


