Four-Way Method for Ethical Decision Making

- What are the facts?
- What are the relevant laws?
- What is the institutional/company policy?
- What are the relevant professional standards?
- What are the possible solutions to the problem?

For each proposed solution:

- . Who are those most likely to be affected?
 - · How are they likely to be affected?
 - Which solution will be most beneficial and/or least harmful to those affected?

- Can the proposed solutions be enacted virtuously (i.e., compassionately, wisely, courageously, etc.)?
- Will doing the proposed actions tend to make the agent(s) more or less virtuous?
- Can the proposed solutions be implemented in a way that builds trusting relationships?

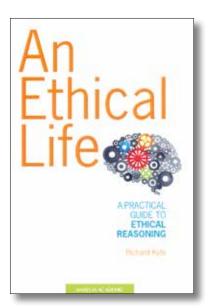
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• Do the proposed solutions treat others the way you would want to be treated?

 Do the proposed solutions treat all involved with respect and dignity?

- Are the proposed solutions motivated by goodwill?
- Do the proposed solutions enhance or diminish the autonomy of all involved?

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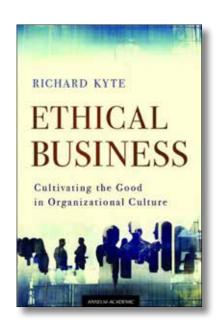


Richard Kyte is the Endowed Professor and Director of the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis. He can be reached at rlkyte@viterbo.edu. "An Ethical Life: A Practical Guide to Ethical Reasoning is first rate. It is wonderfully accessible, deeply informed, and genuinely constructive...I warmly recommend this fresh and engaging book to anyone looking for a balanced and student-friendly introductory text in ethics."

—James G. Hanink, Professor of Philosophy, Loyola Marymount University

"'Do the right thing' is a business catch phrase with a catch: Do the right thing for whom? For shareholders? For customers? For employees? And what should one do when those interests conflict? A valuable resource for classrooms and boardrooms, Richard Kyte's *Ethical Business* makes a strong business case that the answer doesn't lie in adopting stricter codes of ethics but in developing virtuous ethical cultures."

—Frank J. Oswald, Lecturer, School of Professional Studies, Columbia University, New York



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