

Idaho Centennial Chapter – Annual PDT

ETHICS: Standards for keeping the public trust

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ETHICS – Standards for keeping the public trust



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ETHICS – Standards for keeping the public trust

AGENDA

- What are Ethics?
- Role of trust in government
- Ethics vs.
- Key concepts
- Decision Making Framework
- Common Challenges
- Examples



What are Ethics?

AGA's Code of Ethics: AGA Members and CGFMs shall:

- Principle 1: Serve and Support the Public Interest
- Principle 2: Maintain the Highest Standards of Professionalism and Integrity
- Principle 3: Remain Objective in Carrying out their Duties and Responsibilities
- Principle 4: Carefully Maintain and Protect Confidential Information



What are Ethics?

AICPA Code of Professional Conduct

AI OVERVIEW:

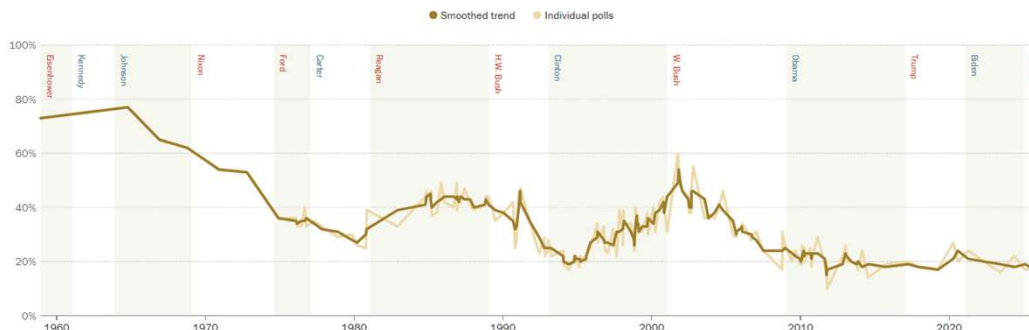
“a set of authoritative rules and principles guiding CPAs to act with integrity, objectivity, competence, and confidentiality, while serving the public interest. It requires members to maintain independence, avoid conflicts of interest, and adhere to technical standards to ensure trust in financial reporting.”



ETHICS – Standards for keeping the public trust – National

Public trust in government near historic lows

% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always/most of the time



Note: From 1976-February 2025, the smoothed trend line represents a three-survey moving average. Data prior to 1976, and the most recent number (September 2025), are from individual polls. Sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN surveys.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



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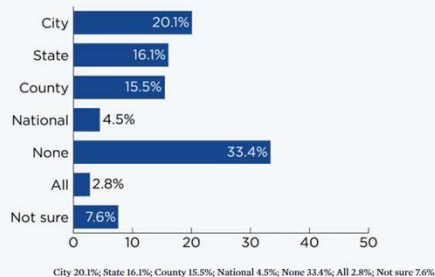


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said the national government, while 3% said they trusted all levels of government.

In your opinion, which level of government do you trust the most?



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Misuse of Public Funds

A **public/government employee** is a person employed by the state of Idaho, or by any county, municipality, public university or community college, school district, special district, or any other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality of or within the state. §§ 67-5909Ba.

Misuse of any public funds by a **public employee** or **public officer** is a crime (usually a felony). I.C. §§ 18-5701 and 18-5702.

– Use of public funds **always** has to be for a **public purpose authorized by law**.

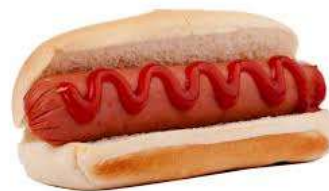
Additional consequences **public employees** and **contractors** could face include termination from your position (or contract), civil lawsuits and disqualification from holding public office.

Credit: DHW Fraud, Waste, Abuse Training



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Quiz # 1!!! Ethics of Food



Is a hot dog a sandwich?

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- Asset Misappropriation
- Corruption
- Financial Statement Fraud
- Third Party Fraud
- Information Security and Cyber Fraud

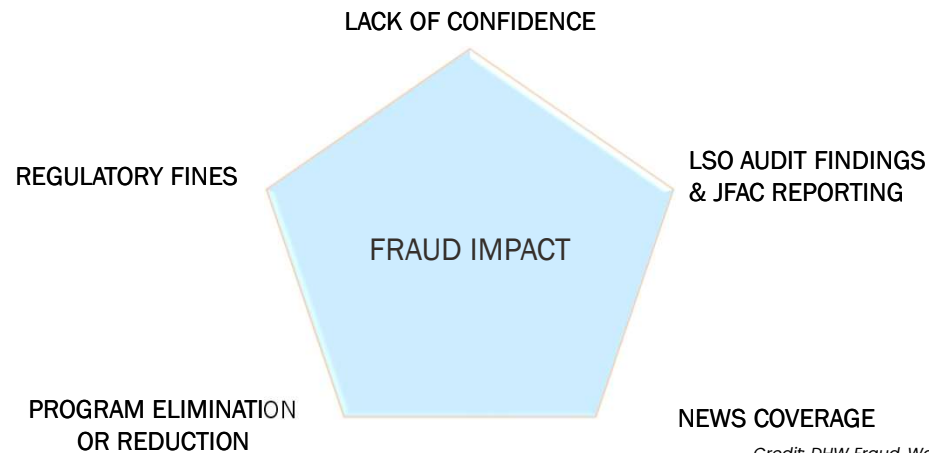
86%
\$100K median loss

43%,
\$200K median loss

10%
\$954K median loss

Credit: DHW Fraud, Waste, Abuse Training

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Credit: DHW Fraud, Waste, Abuse Training



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Ethics vs.Morals

- Although related, they are not synonymous
- Morals are personal values and beliefs about what is and is not acceptable
 - Developed by a person's upbringing including :
 - Culture
 - Family
 - Religion

Credit: Jennifer Paperman, Fall 2024 AGA Journal



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Ethics vs. Legality

Can something be legal & not ethical?



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Ethics vs. Compliance

- **Compliance:**

- Following rules, laws, and policies
- Minimum standard of behavior

- **Ethics:**

- Guiding principles behind decisions
- Doing what *should* be done, not just what's allowed

*Credit: AGA NLT T110 – Ethical leadership
– leading with integrity and ethical
principles*



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Ethics vs. Compliance

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

Report Misconduct
Report fraud, theft, or other misconduct

Ask a question
Get answers to your general questions

Check Report Status
Use your PIN to check the status of your report or provide additional information

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*"Integrity is doing the right thing when you don't have to - when no one else is looking or will ever know."
Charles Marshall*

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Ethics – Key Concepts

Integrity

Objectivity

Accountability

Reputation

Transparency

Credibility

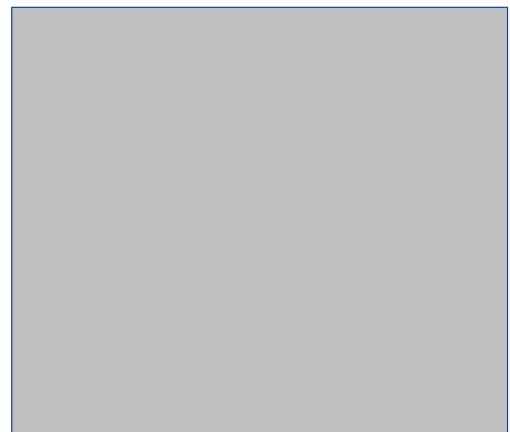
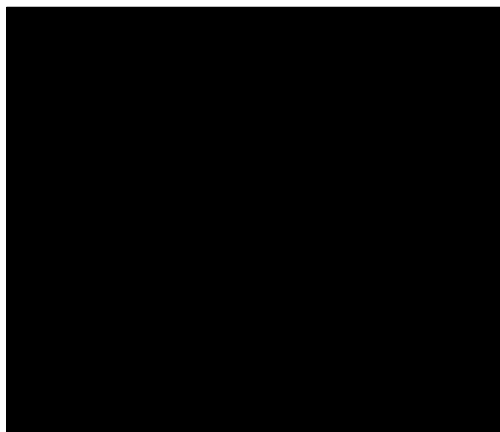
Fairness and Respect

Duty of Loyalty

Quiz # 2!!! Ethics of Food



Ethics – “Managing Gray”



Ethics – “Managing Gray”



Ethics – Framework

5-step framework:

- **Pause** – Don’t rush the decision
- **Clarify the facts** – What do you know for sure?
- **Identify stakeholders** – Who is affected?
- **Test the decision:**
 - Is it legal?
 - Is it consistent with our values?
 - Would I be comfortable if this were public?
- **Decide and own it** – Take responsibility

*Credit: AGA NLT T110 – Ethical leadership
– leading with integrity and ethical
principles*

Ethics – Common Ethical Challenges Leaders Face

Everyday dilemmas:

- Pressure to meet targets
- Favoritism vs. fairness
- Transparency vs. protecting the organization
- Conflicts of interest
- Speaking up vs. staying silent

Reality check:

- Ethical challenges often show up as *gray areas*, not obvious right vs wrong choices

Credit: AGA NLT T110 – Ethical leadership
– leading with integrity and ethical principles



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Examples

\$\$\$\$ - Embezzlement

Using P-Card for personal purchases

State vehicle excessive personal use

State email for personal business



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Examples

2 Employers, same person, same conference



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Examples

End of Federal Fiscal Year purchasing issue



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Quiz # 3!!! Ethics of Food



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Examples

Request for brief consulting to a specific party for \$

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Examples

Offer to extend contract – with conditions



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Examples

Project cancellation – refund of fed monies



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Examples

Questions?