Ethics

Donnie Harville Esq.

Define Ethics

- Emphasizes duty, rules, and the inherent rightness or wrongness of actions, regardless of consequences.

CAN ETHICS BE TAUGHT?

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY COURSE ALONE MADE ANYONE MORE ETHICAL.

PEOPLE ARE MORE INFLUENCED BY THE BEHAVIOR OF THE PEOPLE WHO SURROUND THEM ESPECIALLY AGENCY HEADS

Being Impartial

Everyday Magistrate Functions

What is Ethics?

- No policy manual or code of ethics can determine what action to take in every situation.
- A morally and ethically informed person can use moral reasoning to identify plausible ethical responses.
- Ethics is the study of the principles of good conduct and systems of moral values.
- Ethical behavior relates to conduct that conforms to accepted principles of morality.

Ethics and Professional Conduct

Ethics

- Concept of right and wrong
- Based on moral standards and values

Values – fundamental beliefs on which decisions and conduct are based.

- Different forms: societal, organizational, personal

Ethical standards dictate behavior when there is no law, policy, or precedent there to guide decision making.

Only a small number of magistrates engage in unethical, sometime criminal behavior, like: Engaging in inappropriate off-duty behavior; however, the negative impact of unethical behavior can be devastating.

Morality

Morality demands maintaining integrity in both personal and professional realms. Yet morality is not simply about having the capacity for integrity; it is about exercising that capacity. An important question is:

"What motivates us to exercise (or fail to exercise) that capacity?"

What is integrity?

- Decerning between what is right and wrong, and acting on what you have discerned to be right, even at personal cost.

CULTURE: WHAT IS IT?

Culture

- A set of values, norms, and behaviors that form a particular way of life

Values

- Standards of goodness, or those things that are perceived to be important

Norms

- Rules and expectations about which forms of behavior are acceptable and which are not

DEVIANCE

WITH ENORMOUS POWER AFFORDED TO MAGISTRATES COMES THE POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE OF THAT POWER

TRAINING, SUPERVISION, PROFESSIONALISM, ETHICAL STANDARDS, AND LEGAL CONSTRAINTS MAY DETER SOME INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR, BUT EVEN THE MOST EFFECTIVE CONTROLS DO NOT WORK ALL THE TIME.

DISCOVERING DEVIANCE

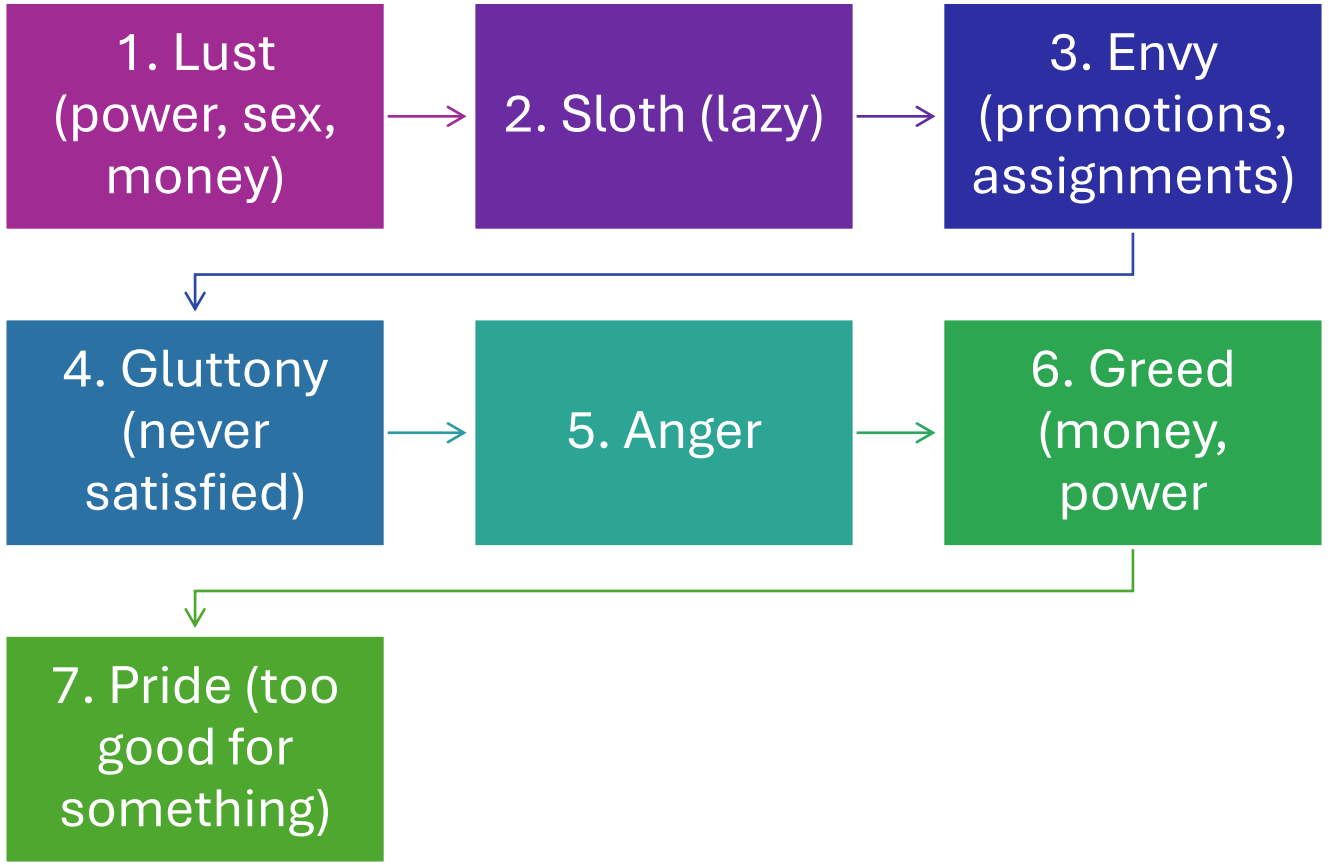
Corruption

- Dishonest or fraudulent conduct by public officials in a position of power
  - Magistrates act corruptly when, in exercising or failing to exercise their authority, they act with the primary intention of furthering private or departmental/divisional advantage

Deviance

- Broad term that applies to any behavior that is at odds with socially expected or accepted behavior

7 Deadly Sins



Has this happened to you?

- **Officer comes into your office to obtain an arrest warrant for an individual who is in custody, and the officer states:**
- **Yeah, I don't think I have enough to make the arrest, but my Sergeant told me to make the arrest, so here I am……..**
- **Can I ask you something before we start… I think he is on the borderline of being drunk, but should I put that in my affidavit for the search warrant for his blood……**
- **I was going to issue a citation until she asked me how many donuts I ate tonight…so I arrested her..**
- **Officer comes in, sits down at your desk, and states, "I don't know if I have enough for an arrest. Explain to me what the whole citation in lieu of arrest means?"**

Has an Officer questioned your bail judgment in front of the suspect?

- What was your response?

WSMV4 INVESTIGATES
419 SOBER DRIVERS ARRESTED FOR DUI IN 2024
"SOBERING PROBLEM" INVESTIGATION
6:07
58°
WSMV4
ClosetsbyDesign
FORECAST
GOODLETTSVILLE
9PM 51°
7AM 54°
12PM 61°

MAY 8, 2024

JULY 19, 2024

SEPT 28, 2024

WSMV4 INVESTIGATES

TROOPER ARRESTS 7 SOBER DRIVERS FOR DUI

"SOBERING PROBLEM" INVESTIGATION

5:01
93°

4 WSMV

Pensacola FLORIDA THE WAY TO BEACH

FORECAST | MANCHESTER | 9PM 76° | 7AM 72° | 12PM 87°

Questions?