

HEALTH

CARE ETHICS

Critical Issues for the 21st Century

Second Edition

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Writing is a solitary task, and yet no one really writes alone. Writers are accompanied by those who believe in and support them in their tasks. The second edition of Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century is dedicated to all those who contributed their time and talent to update existing chapters or develop new ones.

On a personal level, I would like to dedicate the second edition of this text to those who have provided both inspiration and advice. First and foremost, there is always my son, Grant Edward, who believes that Mom can do the impossible—it just takes longer. There are also my colleagues and friends—you each know how much you have meant to me during this process. Finally, there are my publisher, Michael Brown and my editors, Katey Birtcher and Tracey Chapman, whose knowledge, guidance, and patience made major contributions to the quality and integrity of this work.

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Eileen E. Morrison is a professor in the School of Health Administration at Texas State University San Marcos. Her academic background includes a doctorate from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Public Health Degree from the University of Tennessee. In addition, she holds a clinical degree in dental hygiene.

Dr. Morrison has taught graduate and undergraduate ethics courses and provided professional workshops on ethics to physicians, nurses, clinical laboratory professionals, dental professionals, and counselors. She has authored articles and chapters on ethics for a variety of publications. In addition, she is the author of *Ethics in Health Administration: A Practical Approach for Decision Makers*, published by Jones and Bartlett.

Preface

Important works often are created by walking in the footsteps of giants. This aphorism is especially true when considering this new edition of *Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century*. In the first edition, giants in the field of bioethics, Monagle and Thomasma, used their wisdom and forward thinking to coordinate the writings of influential writers in bioethics and ethical theory. They envisioned challenges to be faced in the continuing evolution of the healthcare system that are still germane today. In creating the first edition, they assisted readers' understanding of what the future might hold for health care. The first edition raised both consciousness and conscience for healthcare professionals.

Many changes and challenges have occurred in health care since the publication of the first edition. In light of these changes, it became necessary to revisit some of the areas raised in the previous edition. Contributors updated their chapters with current examples and introduced new thought-provoking concepts. Additional experts in bioethics, long-term care, health administration, and other areas also added new content to existing chapters. New authors provided chapters on areas of concern such as the ethics of spirituality and of disaster response.

When studying complex issues such as those that arise in healthcare ethics, it is often helpful to have an organizational model. For this new edition, the model of a Greek or Roman temple was used in homage to some of the early ethics writers (see Figure 1).

Notice that the foundation of the temple is ethics theory and principles that will be the first part of this new edition. Not only does this section provide a theoretical framework, it also facilitates the analysis of issues presented in subsequent chapters.

The rest of the text is organized around the three main pillars of the model: individual, organizational, and societal issues. An introduction to each part provides an overview of the issues to be discussed in the chapters that follow. Each chapter within the area has its own overview to better acquaint the reader with key chapter concepts. At the end of each chapter, discussion questions provide

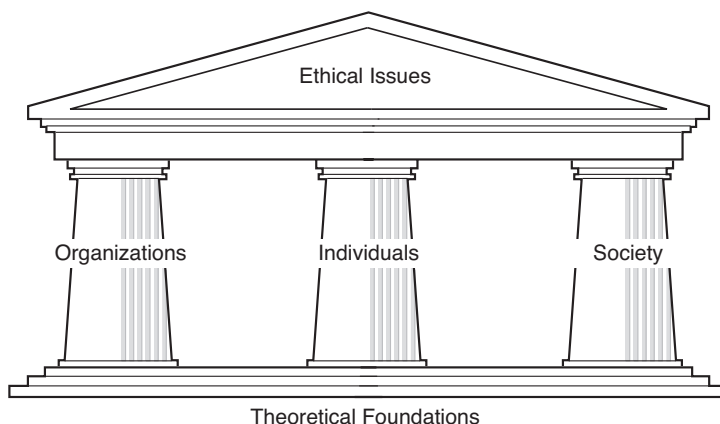


Figure 1 Health Care Ethics Organizational Model

the opportunity for thoughtful analysis and application of the issues raised in the chapter.

Although it is not possible to know all of what the future of health care holds, the expectation for this new edition of *Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century* is that it will challenge the reader to think beyond the existing system of medicine. It is also hoped that many of the issues will spark curiosity and lead to future exploration and thought. However, the overall intent of this new edition is to increase awareness of future ethical issues and enhance the ability to formulate professional or organizational responses to these issues.