

Grant Applications

Trailblazer Transit is applying for both state and federal grants to provide new and expanded service in their area. Changes in the business community and an increase in the student population at the community college have changed the demographics of the community. It has become more diverse, but is now has a higher per capita income in the area where expansion is to take place. The grants are specifically for low income ridership. If Trailblazer combines the populations in areas that are not served by the expansion, it improves their overall numbers and increases their chances of getting the grants. When questioned by grant reviewers, Trailblazer provided misleading answers. Trailblazer was awarded 2 of the 3 grants they applied for.

Use the three-step checklist to determine whether or not the actions above demonstrated ethical behavior.

Is this action illegal? Explain your reasoning.

Does the action violate company or professional standards?

Who is affected, and how, by the action?

People Affected	Negative Affects	Positive Affects

Who Owns My Time?

Employers and employees have a unique relationship. The employee agrees to provide the employer with a fair day's work. In return, the employer agrees to provide a fair day's wage.

Situation 1: Kendra Nickel is a receptionist for Rock-Me Transit. After the company installed voice mail, Kendra's workload became lighter, so her supervisor assigned additional responsibilities, including some accounting tasks. Even with these assignments, Kendra is not always busy. To fill the time, she plays computer games.

Situation 2: At Roll-Me Transit, most employees including dispatchers, drivers, and mechanics work less than 40 hours per week. However, only employees who work a minimum of 40 hours per week are eligible for health insurance.

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- 1)
- 2)

Does the action violate company or professional standards?

- 1)
- 2)

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People Affected	Negative Affects	Positive Affects
1)		
2)		

Technology Temptations

Along with many benefits, technology also presents us with new temptations. Technology allows us to access information for many legitimate reasons, but it can also create ethical dilemmas. What do you think about the situations presented below?

Situation 1: Melissa Hoebbel is a scheduler for a regional Medicaid transportation company. She is told sensitive customer healthcare information as she is setting up doctor’s appointments. She hears about the good and bad doctors and healthcare facilities across the county. She sometimes shares stories about one customer with another and tells customers if a doctor they are seeing is a reliable one. Melissa believes she is being helpful.

Situation 2: Chris Piekarski works for a not-for-profit organization. Recently, he found a list of computer passwords near a photocopier. He started using these passwords to look at other employees’ email files.

Situation 3: Allen Nelson is a bus driver. Sometimes his farebox jams and he is unable to collect fares properly. He knows if he contacts maintenance, it will cost him precious time and he can’t run late on his route again this month. He decides to allow everyone to ride free for the day to keep himself on schedule. A few of the riders give him their fares anyway. He keeps the money to deposit in the farebox at a future time.

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Is this action illegal? Explain your reasoning.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Does the action violate company or professional standards?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

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1)		
2)		
3)		

Is Anyone Listening?

The Big Wage Adult Living Center enjoys a reputation as a good place to work. The company strives to provide quality services for clients.

Situation 1: Grant Hartanov likes to be the first to know what’s going on in the office. One of the reasons he is so well informed is that he looks through the papers on the other employees’ desks.

Situation 2: To improve customer service quality, employees’ telephone calls are monitored. Monitoring is random and employees do not know when a quality manager is listening to a call. Customer service representative Ryan Ward made a personal phone call while Megan Burke was monitoring the line. During the call, Ryan made plans for his weekend activities.

Situation 3: Darrin Moy used his office computer to prepare his resume and some cover letters. Darrin worked on these documents after hours and provided his own paper for printing. He later learned that his supervisor knew about his job search. The supervisor, Eric Forton, found the computer files while looking for a report that Darrin had prepared.

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At What Price, Safety?

Impact Systems assembles a safety system for passenger vans. This system substantially reduces severe injuries to drivers involved in accidents. In an effort to increase profits, Impact Systems recently took steps to cut costs and increase production. Impact Systems has begun using some less expensive components. These components increase the system's estimated failure rate from 12 to 15 failures per 10,000 accidents. Despite this increase, the company continues to meet the government's safety standard of 20 failures per 10,000 accidents.

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