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PSY611 Assignment 1 Solution

Fall 2026

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PSY611 — Ethical Issues in Psychology

Assignment No. 1 — Fall 2026 | Sample Solution | Total Marks: 20 | Due Date: 6 November 2026

Lesson 05: Ethical standards in psychology (APA Ethics Code, Section 1: Resolving Ethical Issues). For each scenario, the ethical standard is identified and justified in three simple points.

Scenario 1: A company misrepresents a psychologist's test results; the psychologist does nothing

Identification: Misuse of Psychologists' Work (Standard 1.01).

• When psychologists learn that their work is misused or misrepresented, they must take reasonable steps to correct or minimize the misuse.

• Ignoring the lie lets the public be misled into buying medical products on false evidence.

• Silence also damages the credibility of psychological testing itself.

Scenario 2: A court order conflicts with ethical rules; the psychologist explains her duties to the judge

Identification: Conflicts Between Ethics and Law (Standard 1.02).

• When law and ethics conflict, the psychologist must make the conflict and her commitment to the Ethics Code known to the court.

• She should then seek a resolution that satisfies the law as far as possible without abandoning her ethical duties.

• Explaining her ethical duties to the judge, as done here, is exactly that step.

Scenario 3: A colleague's small reporting error is raised quietly with the colleague first

Identification: Informal Resolution of Ethical Violations (Standard 1.04).

• When a colleague appears to act unethically, the first step is to attempt an informal resolution by raising the matter directly with that colleague.

• A quiet discussion protects the colleague's reputation while fixing the error quickly.

• Formal reporting comes only if the informal attempt fails or is inappropriate.

Scenario 4: A senior doctor is seen physically harming patients and is reported to the medical board

Identification: Reporting Ethical Violations (Standard 1.05).

• When a violation causes harm and informal resolution is inappropriate, the psychologist must report it to the appropriate authority.

• Patient safety comes before loyalty to a senior colleague.

• Reporting to the official medical board, as here, is the correct formal channel.

Scenario 5: A qualified psychologist is refused a job because she reported a violation last year

Identification: Unfair Discrimination Against Complainants and Respondents (Standard 1.08).

• Employment decisions must not be based solely on a person having made an ethics complaint.

• Refusing the job is retaliation for reporting, which punishes ethical conduct.

• Such retaliation also discourages others from reporting violations in the future.