

# FRAMEWORK FOR APPROACHING AN ETHICAL PROBLEM

Ethical Issues in Collections Management

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1. Collect all of the facts
2. Distinguish between relevant and pertinent facts. Eliminate the irrelevant facts.
3. Identify the people and institutions involved, both inside and outside the museum.
4. Formulate the ethical problem.
5. Consult codes of ethics.
6. Formulate options for resolving the problem
7. Consult any related laws as well as codes of ethics to make sure that your solutions pass muster
8. Consider the possible consequences of your decision (both internal and external to the museum) and identify the best and worst case scenarios.
9. Consult with your colleagues both within your museum and at others. Use their feedback to evaluate your decision and make any necessary adjustments.

Adapted from *A Practical Guide to Museum Ethics*  
Sally Yerkovich, 2016

