

Scenario~

You are working in Area B of a Milwaukee County government agency. The nature of the agency's business requires contact with a variety of vendors. Over the years, you have developed a professional, yet friendly relationship with many of the vendors. One day you receive a check for payment for services rendered by one of the vendors. The check has arrived via the United States Postal Service. Upon review of the records, you realize that this check is a duplicate and that payment has already been received for payment of services. You notify your supervisor of the double payment. The supervisor advises you not to tell the vendor of their error and to deposit the check anyways; stating further, that if they realize their error that you will deal with it at that time.

Dilemma~

Should you deposit the check as instructed by your supervisor? Do your loyalties lie with your supervisor?

Should you tell the vendor and return the check? Do your loyalties lie with the vendor?

Should you do as the supervisor instructs, knowing it is wrong, but you need to keep your job? Do your loyalties lie with your financial responsibility to your family?

Should you do none of the above and arrive at a different conclusion?

Stop by the bulletin board outside our office to participate in this ethical activity. Or visit us on the web for a copy of this scenario. You may also contact our office for a hard copy of this activity by calling 414.278.4218 or emailing barbara.kierzek@milwcnty.com. As always, we look forward to and welcome your opinions and feedback!