Identifying Ethical Pitfalls

Sensitivity
Will my actions make my supervisor uncomfortable?

Trust
Will my actions weaken public trust?

Advantage
Will anyone get or seem to get an unfair advantage?

News
Will my actions make a bad headline on the news?

Danger
Will my actions put my agency at legal risk?

for growing better government.
Cliff Fails the STAND Test

In the video you watched during training, Cliff tells his supervisor that he’s going to meet with a contractor to review work being done on a subdivision in the south end of Riverrun Parish. Instead he hops in the agency truck and drives to a casino where he spends the rest of the day gambling with a friend.

In Cliff’s scenario, each of the STAND questions deserves a “yes” response. Here’s why.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Yes. Supervisors do not like to find out that employees have been dishonest, wasteful, and irresponsible. Also, other employees would feel like Cliff is receiving special treatment, which hurts morale.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>Yes. Cliff’s behavior would damage the public’s trust in government. Taxpayers get angry when they see public servants misusing public resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Advantage</td>
<td>Yes. Cliff gave himself the unfair advantage of using his agency truck to take a trip and partying while on the clock. Other employees and citizens don’t get to use government resources as they please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>Yes. People attribute the bad behavior of public servants to government itself. Cliff’s behavior reinforces the worst stereotypes of government and public employees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Danger</td>
<td>Cliff puts his agency and parish at an unnecessary legal risk. If he crashed into someone, his parish would likely be sued.</td>
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