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Ethical Challenges in the Criminal Justice Field

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Introduction

- Ethical issues are forever present in the criminal justice field
- These issues may range from personal all the way to professionalism of an individual
- Mitigating such challenges are important in ensuring smooth operation of the criminal justice field (Braswell et al., 2017)
- This presentation will focus on the different ethical challenges in relation to different fields such as the use of authority, policing policies, human rights, criminal justice policy, relation between personal and professional interests, media reporting among others.
- These areas are the most affected with these challenges
- Therefore, addressing each issue separately will further explain them in details for every individuals understanding

Use of Authority

- Normally, law enforcers have immeasurable amounts of power usable against citizens to limit their freedom, using force against them, confiscating their belongings and frisk both them and their residentials
- These capacities are awarded to law enforces legally under specified conditions and they are trained to recognize when the powers should be legally applicable (Braswell et al., 2017)
- These capacities are legally authorized and law enforcers are fully aware of that
- Therefore, it is crucial for law enforcers not to misuse these powers when awarded for two major reasons
- First is due to citizenship psychology where citizens through trying to do the right things in order to be part of the mainstream society hence, doing things that are unreasonable requested by the law enforcement officers (Bazelon, 2017)
- Secondly, in order to maintain due process which is required for all law enforcers

Relationship Between Personal and Professional Interests

- Personal and professional interests collides in almost all professions involving representation by another individual
- This is the most familiar challenge when it comes to criminal justice field
- Being represented by a professional whose has poor personal and professional interests is normally challenging for the client
- Conflicts between personal and professional interests may arise from financial arrangements or commercial interests (O'Neal, 2019)
- The representative may want to benefit personally or professionally by offering their services to a client
- The latter is normally beneficial to the representative whereas personally is destructive to the representatives professional career
- Mitigating this requires an individual to completely avoid circumstances that could result in the two interests conflicting

Personal and Professional Commitments to Clients

- According to Code of Ethics, commitment to clients is suitably the highest standard
- This is because it apprehends the abstraction of the communal work profession's values and missions at the same time keeping in balance this commitment with the circumstantial determinants which advice communal work practice
- Communal workers' responsibility is to ensure clients well-being
- Generally, client's interests are paramount (O'Neal, 2019)
- However, a communal worker obligation to specified legal responsibility or the entire society could bypass loyalty owed to clients
- Advising clients when this is about to happens is necessary
- For instance, a social worker is required by regulations to report when their client has warned to harm their selves or other or even abused a child

Criminal Justice Policy

- Making policies on criminal justice challenges are done at numerous levels in the society (Green & Yaroshefsky, 2020)
- They range from local community that presents a new watch program to the conveyance of blueprints at the national level despite spending years in Congress
- At these deferring levels, policy makers have the obligation to choose and deconstruct options, and as they dictate the way to follow, they have to consider all the ethical aspects which are associated with their proposal and plans
- Making policies involve forecasting different future circumstances if flow of events are uninterrupted
- It also involves protruding the future significance of a given course of deed and identification of the desired result from a number of presented choices
- Lastly, it involves creation of enough systems used in monitory

Policing Policy

- Officers of the law are normally ¹ required to adhere to the law enforcement ethics defined by the International Association of Chief of Police
- However, this code normally create dilemmas or ethical challenges especially to the police officers themselves (Siege & Worrall, 2018)
- There are several ethical issues within law enforcement such as upholding the law and personal rights' acting impartial, officer's off-duty life, profiling and using unnecessary force
- Police are usually held to a terribly high standard requiring their personal lives mirror the integrity of their resistance
- These challenges are greatly significant in determining whether a cop should be carrying out their daily duties or not
- There has to be limitations to extends in which police officers should go in order to serve their community as stated by law (Green & Yaroshefsky, 2020)

Information Sharing

- Different questions have arisen as a result of the numerous online news media that present news that may be irrelevant or distorted (Siege & Worrall, 2018)
- The information put up online, shared verbally or through cell phone are most of the time unreliable
- However, most people tend to use them as part of what they know and present them as research
- The information shared from an individual to the other are easily distorted
- After a while, these information becomes irrelevant therefore, limiting a person's research (Bazelon, 2017)
- Managing confidentiality and privacy is another relevant issue especially when the data is being shared

Media Reporting

- Responsible reporting of relevant news is very crucial when it comes to criminal justice field
- Mistakes made during these reporting commonly results into undesired outcomes
- Therefore, grappling with troubled reality is necessary if they are born out through scholarships or through experiences on how listeners consume data
- Journalists need protection especially when it comes to integrity and institutionally defended freedom of the press
- Usually, journalists face malevolent online bullying, physical intimidation or threats, or attacks just because of hate (Green & Yaroshefsky, 2020)
- Republishing of unauthorized divulgence of private data of third-parties and platforms that are independent is also a huge problem when it comes to media reporting
- All these challenges should be prevented for the smooth running of the media

Human Rights

- There different ethical challenges related to human rights which commonly associated with international human rights
- Conflict between local cultural norms and human rights fundamentals is one of the major ethical issues
- Most communities still stick to the norms because they are used to it therefore, they fear change (Shah, 2019)
- Human rights are essential in ensuring individuals are not intimidated or threatened by people in power either locally or internationally
- The criminal justice field is tested on a daily basis when it comes to human rights
- When a clients being represented has done an offence, there are a certain number of privileges they are detained such as freedom of movement (Shah, 2019)

Conclusion

- Ethical issues arise from different circumstances presented by different individuals
- All these issues require mitigations to ensure that the criminal justice field operated sufficiently without any disruptions
- Thus, there should be mitigation measure from the society in case of criminal justice policy all the way to internationally in terms of human rights
- This would help reduce the challenges faced in the criminal justice field
- The different areas presented above demonstrates widely the type of trouble criminal justice field are used to
- Solutions to these issues are not commonly permanent
- When one solution is found and implemented, another challenge arises
- This cycle is difficult to manage thus, it requires the intervention of every individual in that specific field (Siege & Worrall, 2018)

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