

Help for Decision Makers -

Hard choices can and do come up. Sometimes it isn't clear what the most appropriate choice for a given situation is.

The issues and circumstances may vary. Family members may disagree about what to do; members of the care team may have different opinions; or the ability of the resident to decide for him or her self may be unclear.

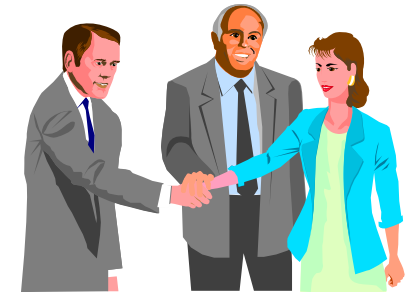
The Ethics Committee is available to help, whatever the situation. The actual decision is still left to the resident or the resident's representative or family, and all matters are treated confidentially.

Support for Care Givers - The Ethics Committee plays a key role by advising Norwood Crossing administration on guidelines, topics, and policies that need to be addressed. This enables Norwood Crossing to enact policies that help its residents maintain their rights and make the best possible choices for their health care.

To inquire about meeting with the Ethics Committee to discuss your personal topic; please call Norwood Crossing and ask for Michael Toohey, Executive Director.

NORWOOD CROSSING ETHICS COMMITTEE

*Supporting the Delivery of Quality
Care for our Residents*



What You Should Know

Norwood Crossing

A not-for-profit senior living
community since 1896

6016-20 N. Nina Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631
Phone (773) 631-4856
Fax (773) 631-4850
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Norwood Crossing

Formerly Norwood Park Home

WHY WE HAVE AN ETHICS COMMITTEE

Health care decisions are very complex today. Advances in medical technology have given us many choices. And sometimes the decisions we face are difficult to make. The people involved in our care may also disagree over what steps to take.

That's when the Ethics Committee can help. Medical Ethics is the process of applying legal and ethical principals to real-world situations. It is a way of looking at hard choices that take into account what the law says; what our values are; and how similar issues have been resolved in the past.

Every person has the right to control the health care he or she receives. You exercise this right by making your own decisions. Even if you aren't able to act for yourself, you can still be in charge through your *Advance Directives*, or through another person acting on your behalf.

If your wishes are not understood, or if those involved in your care

disagree over what should be done, you or your family may need help.

That's where the Ethics Committee comes in. It offers special expertise and experience in medical ethics. Whenever it gets involved, it does so with respect to patients' rights, family privacy, and the personal nature of health care decisions.

WHO SERVES ON THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The committee is comprised of individuals dedicated towards furthering the mission. The Executive Director, the Medical Director, the Chaplain, Director and Assistant Director of Nursing, the Director of Social Services, and a representative from the Board of Directors are standing members.

On an as-needed basis the committee expands to include the Norwood Crossing's Attorney, members of our medical advisory team, and resident, family, care staff, and community representatives. The Ethics Committee generally meets on a monthly basis. Meetings generally

take place at Norwood Crossing during normal business hours.

The committee is here to serve; meetings for special and time sensitive topics can be arranged on short notice.

WHAT THE ETHICS COMMITTEE DOES

The mission of the Ethics Committee has three main parts: *education, help for decision makers, and support for care providers.*

Education - We can't all be experts on medical ethics; but learning about the fundamental of good decision making helps everyone.

Ethics education starts with the committee itself. Its members stay up to date through reports, readings, seminars, and discussions. They follow changes in law, advances in medical technology, and other developments in medical ethics.

Next, the committee helps others understand the basics of health care decision making. It takes part in both community and staff education.