**Fisher’s Eight-Step Ethical Decision-Making Model**

1. Develop and sustain a professional commitment to doing what is right.
2. Acquire sufficient familiarity with the APA Ethics Code General Principles and Ethical Standards to be able to anticipate situations that require ethical planning and to identify unanticipated situations that require ethical decision making.
3. Gather additional facts relevant to the specific ethical situation from professional guidelines, state and federal laws, and organizational policies.
4. Make efforts to understand the perspective of different stakeholders who will be affected by the decision and consult with colleagues.
5. Apply Steps 1 to 4 to generate ethical alternatives and evaluate each alternative in terms of moral theories, General Principles, and Ethical Standards.
6. Select and implement an ethical course of action.
7. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the course of action.
8. Modify and continue to evaluate the ethical plan if necessary.

**Comments**: You can see this decision-making model applied to an ethical dilemma in the final pages of Fisher’s Chapter 3. In part due to Fisher’s role as chair of the APA’s Ethics Code Task Force, this model has been tailored for psychological practitioners within the United States system. In contrast, the models of Rest and Thomas were designed to apply across many disciplines and cultures.

Reference

Fisher, C. B. (2009). Decoding the ethics code: A practical guide for psychologists (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.