

IDENTIFYING ETHICAL PITFALLS

S

Sensitivity

Will my actions make my supervisor uncomfortable

?

T

Trust

Will my actions weaken public trust

?

A

Advantage

Will anyone get or seem to get an unfair advantage

?

N

News

Will my actions make a bad headline on the news

?

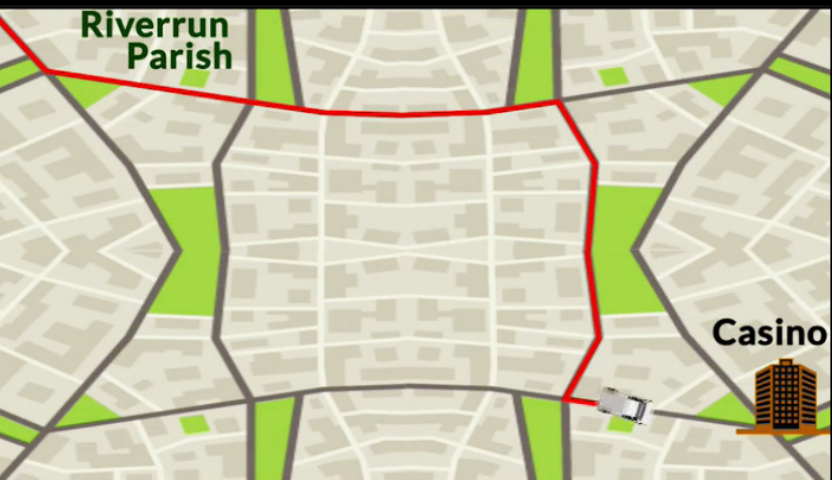
D

Danger

Will my actions put my agency at legal risk

?

for growing better government.

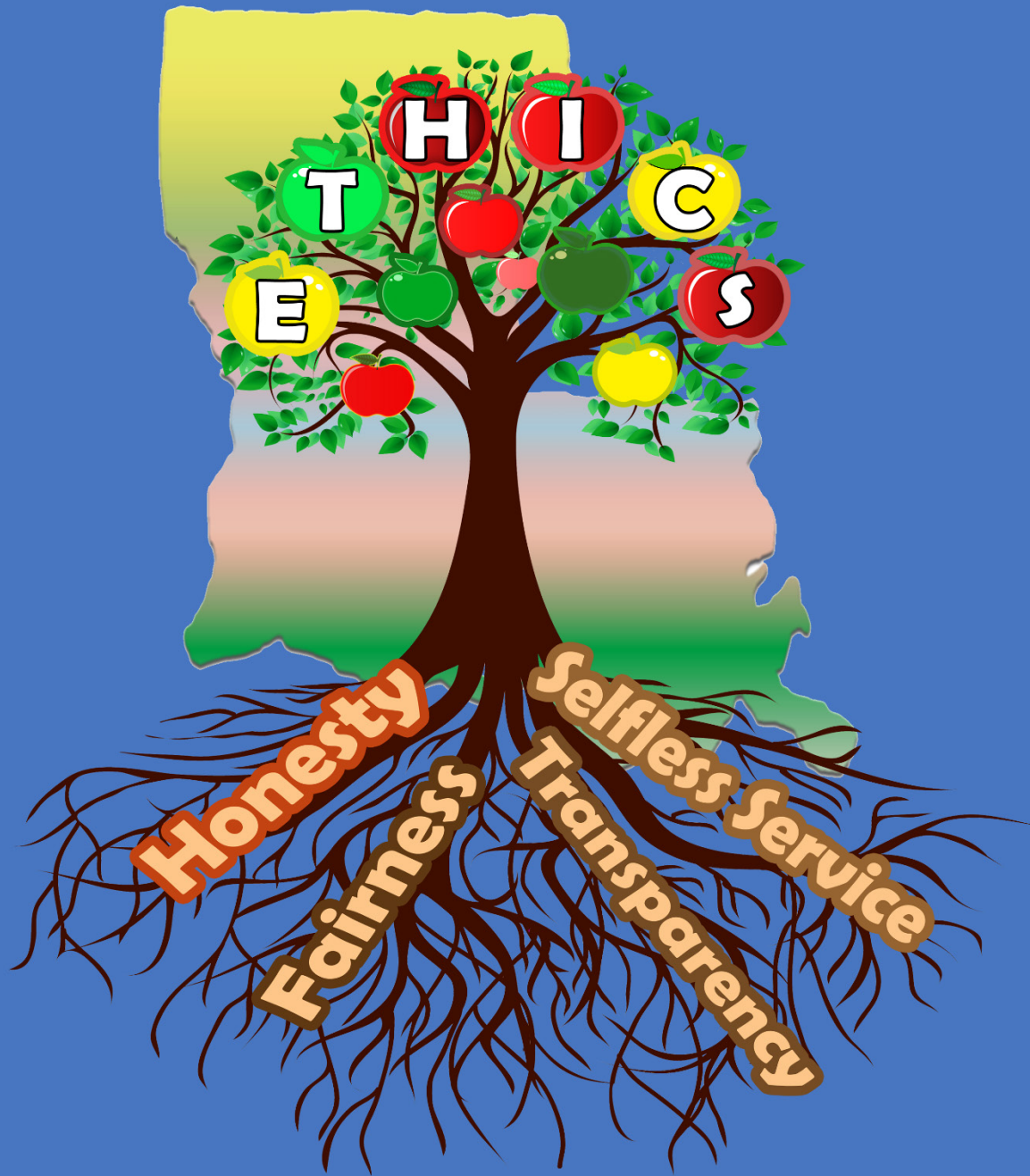


CLIFF FAILS THE STAND TEST

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.

<p>S Sensitivity</p>	<p>Is Cliff’s boss likely to feel uncomfortable about what Cliff did? Would his co-workers approve of his behavior?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>T Trust</p>	<p>Will Cliff’s behavior weaken the public’s trust in government?</p>	<p>Yes. Cliff’s behavior would damage the public’s trust in government. Taxpayers get angry when they see public servants misusing public resources.</p>
<p>A Advantage</p>	<p>Did anyone get an unfair advantage in Cliff’s situation? Cliff himself, for instance?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>N News</p>	<p>Would Cliff’s behavior make government look bad in the news or on the Internet?</p>	<p>Yes. People attribute the bad behavior of public servants to government itself. Cliff’s behavior reinforces the worst stereotypes of government and public employees.</p>
<p>D Danger</p>	<p>Could Cliff’s behavior create a legal problem for the parish government or his agency?</p>	<p>Cliff puts his agency and parish at an unnecessary legal risk. If he crashed into someone, his parish would likely be sued.</p>



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Good Roots > Good Fruit > Good Government