

Occupational Subcultures and Normative Ethics

You are a rookie officer fresh out of the academy. You are currently in your third phase of your field training program and absolutely love the career choice you made. Your first two field training officers (FTOs) were great and you learned a lot from them. Your current one, however, seems different. He is a more seasoned officer than the first two (he is a veteran of 18 years) and he appears to be burned out.

You respond to your next call together and meet with the reporting party. He explains that while walking with his kids he found a bike near a creek that he thinks may have been stolen. He takes you to the location of the bike. There you find a bike in very bad condition that has obviously been there for some time. You are unable to find any serial numbers and know the proper procedure is to place the bike in evidence as "found property." You load the bike in the trunk of your patrol car and begin to drive to the police department. On the way there your FTO tells you to pull over into a parking lot. He has you pull next to a dumpster and tells you to throw the bike in it because there is "no reason to take up space with this piece of junk no one will ever claim." He says, "I'll show you what we really do around here with calls like these." You have reservations, but you also don't want to say no to your FTO.

Evaluate the case from the occupational subculture perspective.

Answers should discuss the underground network often described as the "locker room philosophy" or the agency's "unspoken values."

Is the concept of moral judgment involved here?

Yes. Answers should discuss the totality of circumstances facing criminal justice professionals when making moral decisions.

How does the teleological theory apply here?

Answers should discuss the consequences and moral worth of an action.