



Center For Practical  
**BIOETHICS**

**June 26, 2025**

Make sure you receive this newsletter by adding [info@practicalbioethics.org](mailto:info@practicalbioethics.org) to your Safe Sender, White List or Address Book.



## You're Invited to the Breakfast of Champions [Save the Date](#)

You are invited on **Thursday, September 18, 7:30-9:30 AM** at **The College Basketball Experience**, 1401 Grand Blvd, KCMO, to join us in support of vital ethics consultations that guide patients, families and care teams through the hardest decisions in healthcare.

[Sponsorships](#) in support of Ethics Champions start at \$1,000. Purchase tickets by **September 1 for 41% off** your Individual Ticket with code **EARLY BIRD** – in honor of CPB's 41<sup>st</sup> birthday!

[REGISTER](#)

# Will Your Healthcare Organization Be Ready?

## Ethics Services Partnerships Offer Clarity

Recently, two organizations have taken proactive steps to address medical ethics questions that few of us could barely imagine even 30 years ago, much less what's on the horizon for 2030 and beyond.

Midland Health in Midland, Texas, and Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Lawrence, Kansas, have both partnered with the Center to expand their medical ethics capabilities. At Midland, the Center is helping to build an ethics committee from the ground up. At Lawrence, we're helping deepen their established committee's ability to confidently navigate the most complex ethical situations.



READ

Partnership with the Center offers clarity. We provide real-time consultation, long-term support, and guidance that helps hospitals respond to uncertainty with confidence – while upholding the highest ethical standards in care.

LEARN ABOUT ETHICS  
SERVICES

## Clinical Ethics Resources

You can use these free resources to educate your ethics committee and increase anyone's ability to respond to complex ethical issues.

### Ethics Dispatch

#### Eroding Autonomy: Pregnant Women Under Restrictive Advance Directive Laws

Recent high-profile cases and legal battles in states like Kansas and Georgia expose a deeply troubling erosion of women's autonomy under laws that prioritize fetal rights over a woman's clearly expressed medical wishes. [Cassie Shaffer Johnson](#) argues for advocacy and legislative reform that restores respect for women's moral and personal agency.



In Ethical Musings, [Ryan Pferdehirt](#) explores how bioethics' foundational principle of respect for individuals, which extends to never using humans as means to an end, plays out in clinical practice.

READ THE DISPATCH

## Clinical Ethics Corner Video Case Study

### Value of a Person: When Needs and Benefits Conflict

A patient was dying and likely to have viable organs for procurement, but the patient was in extreme pain and needed medication.

During a care meeting, the team discussed multiple options for alleviating the pain. But during the meeting, an OPO (Organ Procurement Organization) representative noted that if they were to administer a particular medication, it would make those organs less likely for successful procurement—and thus not able to give the gift of life to other patients.

Ryan Pferdehirt, VP of Bioethics, raises questions that should be asked in scenarios like this, where expectations to provide for others and who should make decisions are unclear.



WATCH THE SHORT  
VIDEO

READ THE CASE

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## Ethics Committee Consortium News

### The ECC Tackles Evolving Questions in Organ Donation

At our June meeting, the ECC took a deep dive into TA-NRP-DCD, a developing approach to organ donation that's raising important ethical questions.

We explored the balance between honoring donor intent, ensuring ethical safeguards, and navigating the real-time complexities clinical teams are facing. The conversation was thoughtful, at times challenging, and grounded in our shared commitment to dignity, transparency, and trust in care.

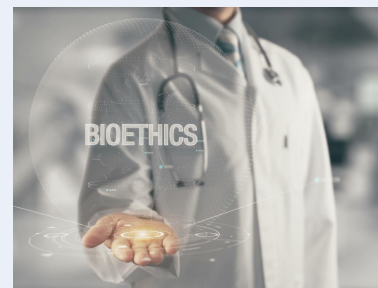
We'll announce our next meeting soon – stay tuned! We're excited to keep these critical conversations going.

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## Interested in how your healthcare organization can partner with the Center?

Partnership with the Center offers clarity. We provide real-time consultation, long-term support, and guidance that helps hospitals respond to uncertainty with confidence – while upholding the highest ethical standards in care.

Contact [Cassie Shaffer Johnson](#) or visit our [Clinical Ethics Services](#).



## Are you a victim of enshiftification?

### Join The Center in Fighting Tech Platform Stranglehold on Small Nonprofits

Last year the Center needed to switch to a better Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform.

First step was to download our data from the old CRM and import the data into the new CRM. As simple as it sounds, we couldn't download the data in any meaningful way without knowing code. The old company offered to do the export for a few thousand dollars. But it's our data, not theirs. We refused and paid a developer to do the conversion.

Our Communication and Website Coordinator, Monica Delles, explains why these types of demands are unaffordable and unreasonable, if not unethical, especially for small nonprofits like the Center...and what we're doing about it.



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## Humans + Technology:

### Embracing the Intersection for Mental and Emotional Wellness

As a means of providing mental and emotional support, apps are no different than churches, schools, hospitals, community centers, concert venues, and public parks, according to Lindsey Jarrett, PhD, VP of Ethical AI, in a piece she was requested to write by [i.c. stars](#)\*, one of the Center's community partners.

Apps, she says, are just a slice of how we create things to build community and engage in our desire for belonging. All of which points to a gap that may not be filled with more technology, but possibly an evaluation of the intersection that now exists between technology and humans.

Lindsey concludes with questions to help us think about ways that we can act inside this gap to create mental and emotional wellness.



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