



### **Professional Rights**

The rights that engineers have as professionals are called Professional Rights. These professional rights include –

- The basic right of professional conscience.
- The right of conscientious refusal.
- The right of professional recognition.

#### **Right of Professional Conscience**

This is a basic right which explains that the decisions taken while carrying on with the duty, where they are taken in moral and ethical manner, cannot be opposed. The right of professional conscience is the moral right to exercise professional judgement in pursuing professional responsibilities. It requires autonomous moral judgement in trying to uncover the most morally reasonable courses of action, and the correct courses of action are not always obvious.

There are two general ways to justify the basic right of professional conscience.

- The exercise of moral reflection and conscience that justifies professional duties is necessary, with respect to that duty.
- The general duties to respect persons and rule-utilitarianism would accent the public good of allowing engineers to pursue their professional duties.

#### **Right of Conscientious Refusal**

The right of conscientious refusal is the right to refuse to engage in unethical behavior. This can be done solely because it feels unethical to the doer. This action might bring conflicts within the authority-based relationships.

The two main situations to be considered here are –

- When it is already stated that certain act is unethical in a widely shared agreement among all the employees.
- When there occurs disagreement among considerable number of people whether the act is unethical.

Hence it is understood that engineers and other professionals have a moral right to refuse the unethical acts such as bribery, forging documents, altering test results, lying, padding payrolls or coercing employees into acting by threatening, etc.



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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**Right to Recognition**

An engineer has a right to the recognition of one's work and accomplishments. An engineer also has right to speak about the work one does by maintaining confidentiality and can receive external recognition. The right for internal recognition which includes patents, promotions, raises etc. along with a fair remuneration, are also a part of it.

The fulfillment of right to recognition motivates the employee to be a trustful member of the organization, which also benefits the employer. This makes the employee morally bound which enhances the ethical nature to be abide by the professional ethics.