



# **SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

(An Autonomous Institution)

Approved by AICTE, New Delhi, Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

Accredited by NAAC-UGC with 'A++' Grade (Cycle III) &

Accredited by NBA (B.E - CSE, EEE, ECE, Mech & B.Tech.IT)

COIMBATORE-641 035, TAMIL NADU



**COURSE NAME : 23CAE707 – Ethics in Information Technology**

**I YEAR / II SEMESTER**

**UNIT – I**

**Topic: Ethics and Laws**

Ms.B.Sumathi

Assistant Professor

Department of Computer Applications



# Introduction

## Law vs. Ethics

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### LAW

1. Described by formal written documents
2. Interpreted by courts
3. Established by legislatures representing all people
4. Applicable to everyone
5. Priority determined by laws if two laws conflict
6. Court is final arbiter for right
7. Enforceable by police and courts

### Ethics

1. Described by unwritten principles
2. Interpreted by each individual
3. Presented by philosophers, religions, professional groups
4. Personal choice
5. Priority determined by an individual if two principles conflict
6. No external arbiter
7. Limited enforcement –usually the “court of public opinion”



# Ethics and Legal Issues

## Ethical vs. Legal Issues

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- ❑ Ethical issues are not legal issues.
- ❑ Legal issues have documented definitions (laws) with specific consequences if the laws are broken.
- ❑ Ethical issues are guidelines set by a specific group of people with no real documented definitions of what is right and what is wrong.
- ❑ Individuals can choose if they wish to follow the ethical guidelines or not.



# Examples of Legal Issues

## Examples of Legal Issues in computing

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- ❑ Criminal statutes
- ❑ Federal and state regulations
- ❑ Commonly accepted professional practices
- ❑ Variations among countries and regions
- ❑ Un authorised access
- ❑ Sabotage and destruction of data
- ❑ Theft of commercial software



Thank  
You