



Group Decision Tip

E-mailed every two weeks to help groups make good decisions

Morality as agreed

In principle, if group members have not agreed to a particular morality or set of values, it is not okay to expect or impose that particular morality or set of values. People become uncomfortable when it feels like a specific moral code is being imposed without permission. Imposing morality creates enemies. On the other hand if your group has a moral code, it is right to honor it. Speaking a certain morality without acting on it also creates enemies.

Practical Tip: Do not impose unwelcome morality. Act out agreed morality. Work to change group morality using agreed group processes.

For example, if a neighborhood association's stated purpose and other governing documents say nothing of environmental values, group members should not impose environmental values as if they were group values. It is not okay to suggest that someone is being "anti-group" if they are being "anti-environment." If you would like environmental values to become group values then work for that within the rules. Request that it be discussed. Make a proposal. Practice environmental values in your own yard and in all ways that are not contrary to group decisions. But absent stated group morality, it is not okay to behave as if such morality is shared by the group as a whole.

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