

Homework Assignment #3 – Ethics Hypotheticals

You are to use the checklist presented in class as the mechanism for responding to what is asked below. You will not be graded on what you have to say in your responses per se (re: spelling, grammar, etc). Instead, I will be looking for complete answers. So feel free to push the envelope on any of the six primary questions within the checklist. BUT remember: every action has consequences. Whether or not you choose to go to the extreme, you must also discuss what could occur given the choices you articulate. And, YES - you may respond in bullet form if you so choose. Good luck!

- **Question #1:** Under Indian custom, many families pay a staggering dowry when their daughters marry. To avoid this burdensome debt, hundreds of thousands of pregnant women each year pay for an ultrasound to determine the gender of their fetus and then abort females. This practice has become such a problem that Indian law prohibits doctors from revealing a fetus's gender but many doctors violate the law. In some areas of India, fewer than 800 girls are born for every 1,000 boys. General Electric Co. is the largest seller of ultrasound machines in the Indian market. Indeed, there is some evidence that GE targets doctors in small towns where this problem is most severe. If you were the head of the Ultrasound Division of GE, what would you do?
- **Question #2:** Rap Artist Ice-T and his band, Body Count, recorded a song called *Cop Killer* in which the singer gleefully anticipates slitting a policeman's throat. FYI: lyrics to this song are readily available online. Time Warner, Inc., produced this song and other gangsta rap recordings with violent and sexually degrading lyrics. Recorded music was an important source of profits for the company, which was struggling at the time of the release with a \$15 billion debt and a depressed stock price. If Time Warner renounced rap albums, its reputation in the music business – and future profits – might have suffered. This damage could spill over into the multimedia market, which was crucial to Time Warner's future. If you were the CEO of Time Warner, what would you do?