

CRIMINAL JUSTICE **ETHICS**

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Chapter 1: The Importance of Ethics in Criminal Justice

4 EDITION

Theory
and
Practice

The Meaning of Ethics

- Also known as moral philosophy
- Branch of philosophy concerned with study of questions of right and wrong and how we ought to live.
- Three branches within study:
 - *Metaethics*
 - *Normative ethics*
 - *Applied ethics.*

The Value of Ethics

- Do we need to study ethics?
- Among reasons commonly given for studying ethics are the following:
 - Ethical considerations are central to decisions involving discretion, force, and due process that require people to make enlightened moral judgments
 - Only through studying ethics is it possible to define unethical behavior