

# Ethics Program

at Kennedy Krieger Institute



*Helping with challenging decisions  
about care, treatment, and services*

We are all born with great potential.  
Shouldn't we all have the chance to achieve it?



Kennedy Krieger Institute  
UNLOCKING POTENTIAL



*"The Ethics Program is one of the tools that patients, staff, and students have to ensure the highest quality care in a compassionate, collaborative environment."*

– Daniel A. Kleiner, Psy.D.  
Chair, Ethics Program



## **A Commitment to Understanding Ethics**

Those who serve on the Ethics Program team receive ongoing training and education on helping with ethical dilemmas and challenges. They participate in conferences, attend presentations by local and national experts, and are members of national and local healthcare ethics associations and societies.

Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes and respects the rights of patients and their families and treats them with courtesy and dignity. Kennedy Krieger Institute provides care that preserves cultural, psychosocial, spiritual, and personal values, beliefs, and preferences. Care is free from discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression including transgender. We encourage patients and families to become active partners in their care by asking questions, seeking resources, and advocating for the services and support they need. 06/2016



## **What is the Ethics Program?**

Decisions are not always easy. They sometimes involve moral and ethical questions. Kennedy Krieger has developed the Ethics Program to help patients, families, and staff navigate difficult ethical situations by offering free consultations. The program also provides ethics training, and reviews hospital policies and procedures as appropriate.

Dedicated to the health and well-being of individuals treated at the Institute, our program is here to support you in every way as you consider important decisions.

## **Assistance with Ethical Decisions**

In treatment or educational decisions, your team is the first place to seek help. Families should never hesitate to discuss any question with the physicians, therapists, teachers, or other professionals on their team. Kennedy Krieger social workers are also available to speak with patients, students, or family members, and they can play an important role in guiding the dialogue between individuals and the service provider team.

However, sometimes it helps to discuss your ethical questions and concerns with others who are not directly involved in the situation. Our Ethics Program team can facilitate discussions between involved parties to help resolve ethical issues.

## Common Ethical Concerns

- You are older than 18 years of age and may want a different course of treatment than what your parents want for you.
- Disagreements arise with the treatment team about the best course of action.
- The treatment team determines that goals have been met, but you still see a need for therapy.
- School personnel determine that your child is ready to transition back to a public school, but you disagree.

## Our Approach

If you have an ethics-related concern, contact the Ethics Program via email or phone. We will then gather information related to the situation and explore the concerns in detail. There is often a meeting held to discuss the situation so that all voices are heard.

We will then offer written recommendations regarding ethically permissible options to be considered by those involved in the decision. Ultimately, care and treatment decisions belong to you and your team.





## Who We Are

Comprised of caring, concerned, and experienced Kennedy Krieger staff, as well as individuals from outside the Institute, the Ethics Program includes doctors, nurses, social workers, educators, clergy, administrators, family members, community members, and individuals with disabilities. They have a broad knowledge of ethical issues, and extensive education, training, and experience in helping patients, families, and staff wrestle with difficult decisions.

All members of the Ethics Program team sign a yearly agreement that requires them to protect and respect the confidentiality of all information acquired in the course of their work. No information is disclosed beyond those directly involved in the discussion.

The Ethics Program Team at Kennedy Krieger Institute





## About Kennedy Krieger Institute

For more than 75 years, the renowned doctors, researchers, therapists, and educators at Kennedy Krieger Institute have been empowering children and young adults to unlock their potential and succeed in family, school, and community life. An internationally recognized institution, Kennedy Krieger cares for more than 20,000 individuals annually through a focus on patient care, special education, research, professional training, and community initiatives.

## Contact Information

### Ethics Program at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Ethics consultations can be requested by a patient, student, family member, or staff member. The Ethics Program can be reached at **443-923-5911** or by emailing **[Ethics@KennedyKrieger.org](mailto:Ethics@KennedyKrieger.org)**.

General Information: **443-923-5911**

TTY: **800-735-2258** or Maryland Relay **711**

**[KennedyKrieger.org/Ethics](https://www.kennedykrieger.org/Ethics)**

### Location:

707 North Broadway  
Baltimore, MD 21205