



Teheran University of Medical Sciences

School of Medicine

Title:

**Ethical considerations in essential fields of legal
(forensic) medicine organization and compilation of
ethical guideline**

**"A dissertation submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for Doctor of
Philosophy (PhD) Degree"**

**In
Medical ethics**

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Abstract

The title of present research is: Ethical considerations in essential fields of legal (forensic) medicine organization and compilation of ethical guideline

Introduction: Managers, incumbents, and community want to observe ethical considerations in organizations. The implementation of ethical considerations requires guidelines according to which individuals involved in organizational affairs can properly perform and evaluate their ethical responsibilities. Iranian Legal Medicine Organization is a large organization with various and sensitive functions. So far, no population was surveyed for ethical considerations in this area to develop an ethical guide. This research aimed to explain the ethical considerations in the main areas of work of the Iranian Legal Medicine Organization and to draft a national ethical guide.

Material and Method: our dissertation was done in three steps: 1) Determination of the main areas of work by reviewing academic texts ,surveying 13 experts in this field with a questionnaire.2) Qualitative Study for determination of ethical considerations of these areas by structured and in-depth interviews with 9 owner's Forensic and medical ethics experts obtained by purposive sampling and theoretical saturation and analysis of interviews by the conventional approach of content analysis to specify propositions and confirm the reliability of 80% research in coding through the double-coder agreement method.3) Drafting ethical guidelines by the research group (students ,supervisors ,and consultants) in the focus group meetings based on the results of the secondary step.

Findings: The results indicated that ethical considerations in the main areas of legal medicine include two types of general and specific ethical considerations. General cases related to all areas of legal medicine work were classified into three themes of moral virtues, ethical, and professional behavior, and appropriate working and environmental conditions. Dedicated items were categorized into six categories, including ethical considerations in organizational ethics, physical examinations, psychiatric and psychological examinations, dissection and crime scene, forensic laboratories, and legal medicine commissions. Each category was expressed in the dissertation with detailed main, sub-themes, and related propositions, along with a draft ethical guide.

Conclusion: Legal medicine organization is a sensitive and large organization in providing various services to achieve justice, which has an effective and satisfactory performance by considering the ethical aspects in the process of its activities. A comprehensive and holistic view of the ethical considerations of this organization, which is presented in this research along with the drafting of an ethical guide, covers the main areas of forensic work. This view can prevent the problems of negligence or ignorance of ethical behavior and practice, which can be used as a model for developing ethical guidelines for other health-oriented organizations and institutions in the country.

Keywords: Legal(Forensics) medicine, Ethics, Ethical considerations, Ethical guidelines