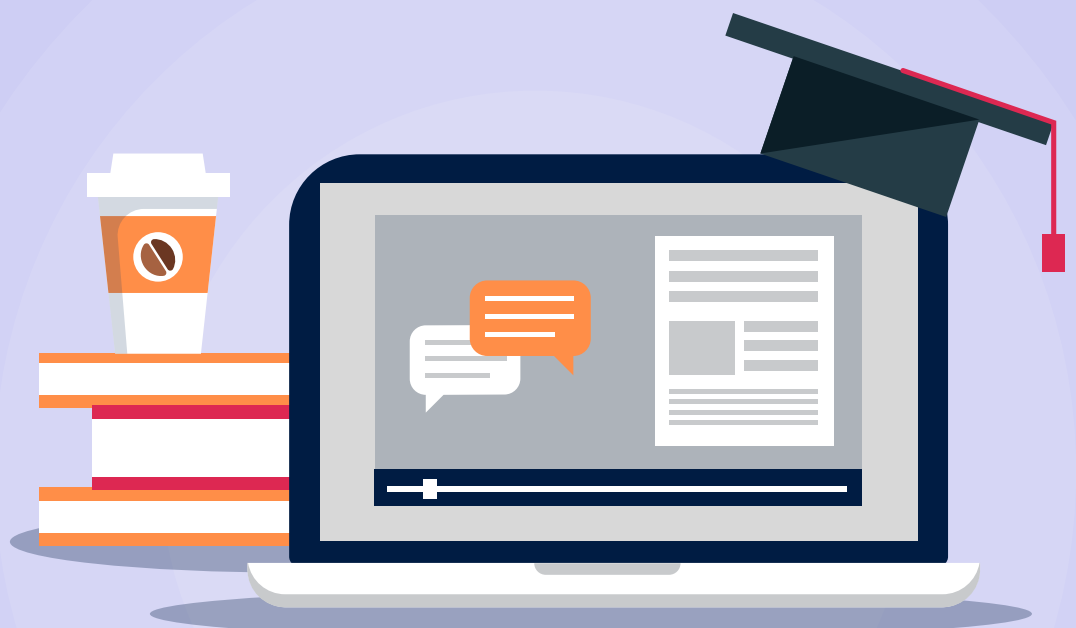


# CASE STUDY ON MORAL STATUS

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Name

Institutional Affiliation



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Theories of moral status are not expected to provide answers to all crucial questions in line with the moral obligations of human beings. A large number of moral obligations stem from the moral status of the individuals that we are obliged to in addition to situational factors including individual relationship and the promises that an individual makes. In this respect, there are various theories of moral status that can be utilized in influencing actions in the field of nursing as far as fetuses are concerned including the cognitive theory, the theory of moral agency and the theory of human properties.

## Theories Used in Determining the Moral Status of the Fetus

The theories that are being used by Jessica, Marco, Maria and Dr. Wilson are the human properties theory, the cognitive theory, the relationship theory and the theory of moral agency. This is because Dr. Wilson employs the theory of moral agency to make the conclusion that Maria has the right of knowing the medical condition of her fetus. Apart from this, Maria as well as Jessica utilizes the human properties theory to discern that they had the moral right of owning the fetus in the condition in which it will be born based on the fact that God has a special purpose for it. On one hand, Marco employs the cognitive relationship to support the argument that Jessica should not be made aware of the condition of

her fetus until the moment when she could be ready to receive the news. On the other hand, Dr. Wilson uses the cognitive theory to support the abortion of the fetus provided that the fetus has no cognitive ability as it is not in a position to reason as well as to understand its actions. That is why he makes the decision of informing Jessica the condition of the fetus and proposing the abortion of the fetus as one of the ways of fulfilling his responsibility as a doctor. Marcos uses the relationship theory to provide the argument that he was ready to support the decision that will be taken by Jessica but insisted that she should not be made aware of the situation at hand until she was ready.

## How the Theories Determine or Influence Each of Their Recommendation for Action

The moral agency theory influences the action that is recommended by Dr. Wilson by providing that when an individual makes judgments in line with what is wrong and right, the individuals should have motives that ought to be judged. In this case, he concluded that it was entirely wrong for Jessica not to be informed of the status of the fetus without the information being hidden from her. Moreover, the cognitive theory influences his actions as it provides for various characteristics of a cognitive person including the ability of the individual possessing the freedom of acting purposely, the ability of reasoning and understanding actions in addition to communicating using a language. Therefore, Dr. Wilson was aware of the fact that the fetus could not be termed as a cognitive person as it not capable of understanding actions and communication. The theory of human properties provides for it is okay to

be born of parents that are human in addition to having a genetic code applicable to humans. Thus, the fetuses are provided with a moral status. That is why both Jessica and Maria thought that it was right for them to possess the fetus despite its condition. The relationship theory on its part provides room for moral status depending on the relationship that exists between individuals. Hence, the relationship that existed between Jessica and Marcos made it hard for him to decide on abortion and communicating the information to her.

## Personal Response to the Case Study

In my point of view, I agree with the theory of moral agency. The theory expects individuals to make decisions while putting into consideration of the fact that they are responsible for their actions and they shall be judged according to their actions. The profession of nursing requires all nurses to follow the required medical procedures in line with their patients. Thus, in the case study provided, an abortion was the most appropriate course of action as the fetus will be born with an abnormality. The fetus could be born with no arms as well as having a medical condition referred to as down syndrome which will lead to more suffering on its part as the parents are not financially stable to handle the situation of the fetus if it is born with the above mentioned abnormality. Moreover, it is the responsibility of all medical practitioners to inform their patients all the medical conditions that are associated to them with a view of ensuring that corrective measures are taken on time. Nevertheless, in instances where a medical officer recommends an abortion, it is important to uphold what God teaches human beings

about life. There is actually no need for abortion because there is need to protect the sanctity of life. More so, it is vital to believe that God can perform miracles and save the situation.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, in the case study under investigation, various theories have been used by the individuals involved in determining the moral status of the fetus including the relationship theory, the cognitive theory, the human properties theory and the theory of moral agency. These theories have been used in influencing the various courses of actions that are recommended by the parties involved in the case study. However, it is essential to note that it is crucial for patients to follow the medical recommendations provided by medical practitioners for the most appropriate course of action to be taken in the case of a dilemma.