



Module 9

Ethics in Victim Services

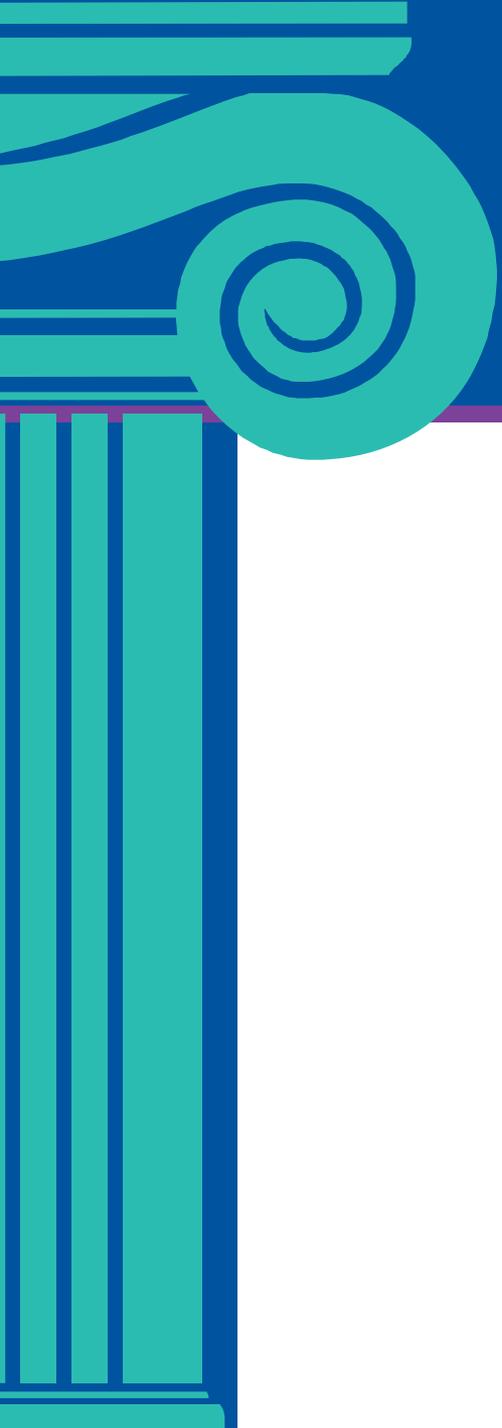


Office for Victims of Crime
OVC
"Putting Victims First"



Learning Objectives

- ❖ Describe ways that your attitudes, beliefs, and values influence your responses to victims of crime.
- ❖ Find appropriate ethical standards in the NVASC Standards for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers.
- ❖ Use a decisionmaking process when faced with an ethical dilemma.

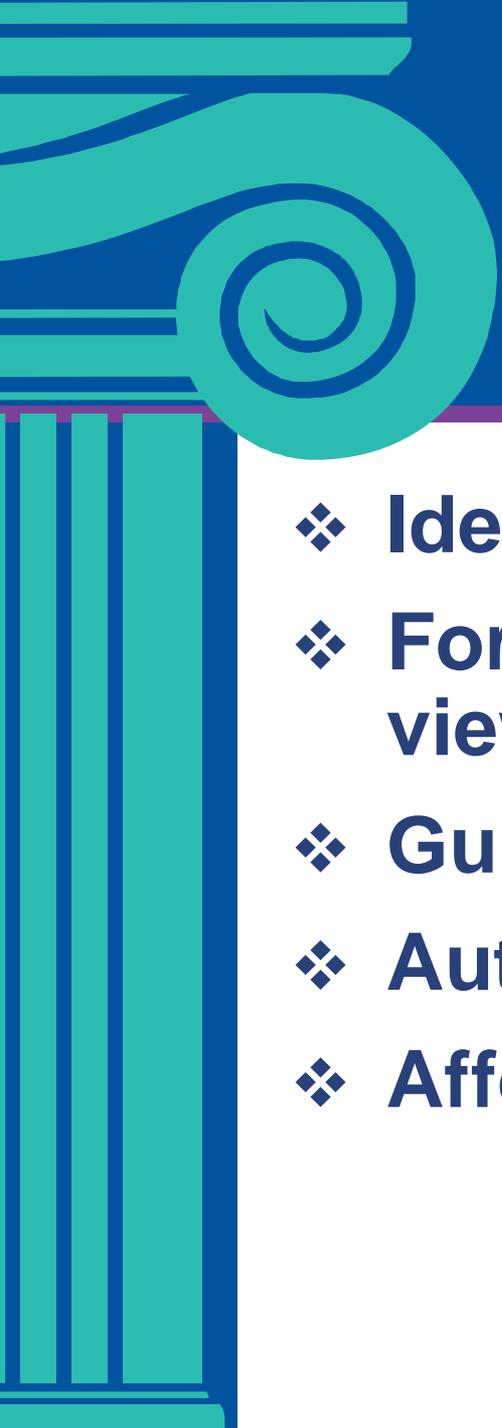


Ethics and Values



Ethics

- ❖ **A system of moral principles, rules, and standards of conduct.**
- ❖ **Safeguard the reputation of the profession.**
- ❖ **Protect the public from exploitation.**
- ❖ **Promote competent and responsible practices.**



Personal Values

- ❖ **Ideals and beliefs we hold dear.**
- ❖ **Form the foundation for how we view and interact with the world.**
- ❖ **Guide our decisionmaking.**
- ❖ **Authentic components.**
- ❖ **Affect working with clients.**



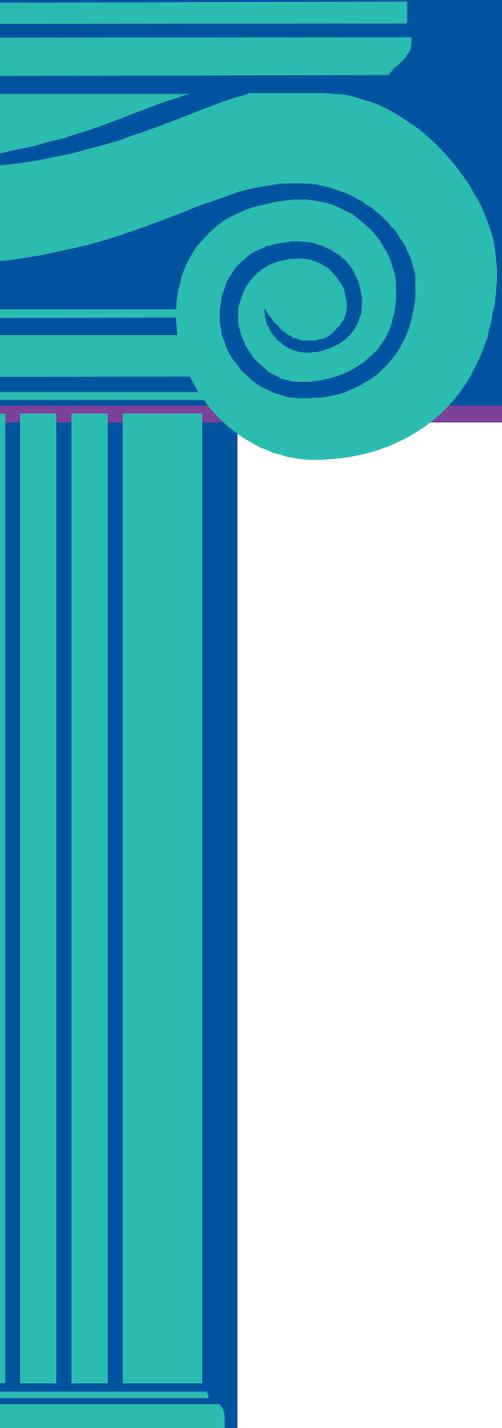
Professional Values

- ❖ **Ideals and beliefs the professional holds dear.**
- ❖ **Create expectations in the field.**
- ❖ **Guide our decisionmaking.**
- ❖ **Might conflict with personal values.**
- ❖ **Key determinants in ethical decisionmaking process.**



Why Is Self-Awareness Important to Ethical Practice?

- ❖ Values drive behavior and are always in operation.
- ❖ Personal values influence response to challenging situations, how judgments are made, and how you balance the rights of individuals.
- ❖ Awareness of values or biases allows you to recognize when they are being challenged, so you can focus on your clients.



Activity

Self-Awareness Inventory

Worksheet 9.1



Ethics and Ethical Standards



National Victim Assistance Standards Consortium

- ❖ **Funded by OVC.**
- ❖ **The Center for Child and Family Studies, University of South Carolina designed and coordinated the consortium.**
- ❖ **Members researched victim service practices, conducted focus groups.**



Foundations of Victim Assistance Code of Ethics

- ❖ **Competence**
- ❖ **Integrity**
- ❖ **Professional responsibility**
- ❖ **Respect for people's rights and dignity**
- ❖ **Concern for others' welfare**
- ❖ **Social responsibility**



Activity

Interpretations Exercise

- ❖ **Nuclear: What does this mean?**
- ❖ **Respect: What does this mean?**



Competence

- ❖ **Know your capabilities.**
- ❖ **Make appropriate use of professional resources in the community.**
- ❖ **Seek out opportunities for professional development.**
- ❖ **Do no harm!**



Integrity

- ❖ **Honesty, fairness, respect.**
- ❖ **Be clear about your role.**
- ❖ **Avoid dual relationships**
- ❖ **Fulfill commitments.**
- ❖ **Seek to understand how your personal history and belief system may affect your interactions.**



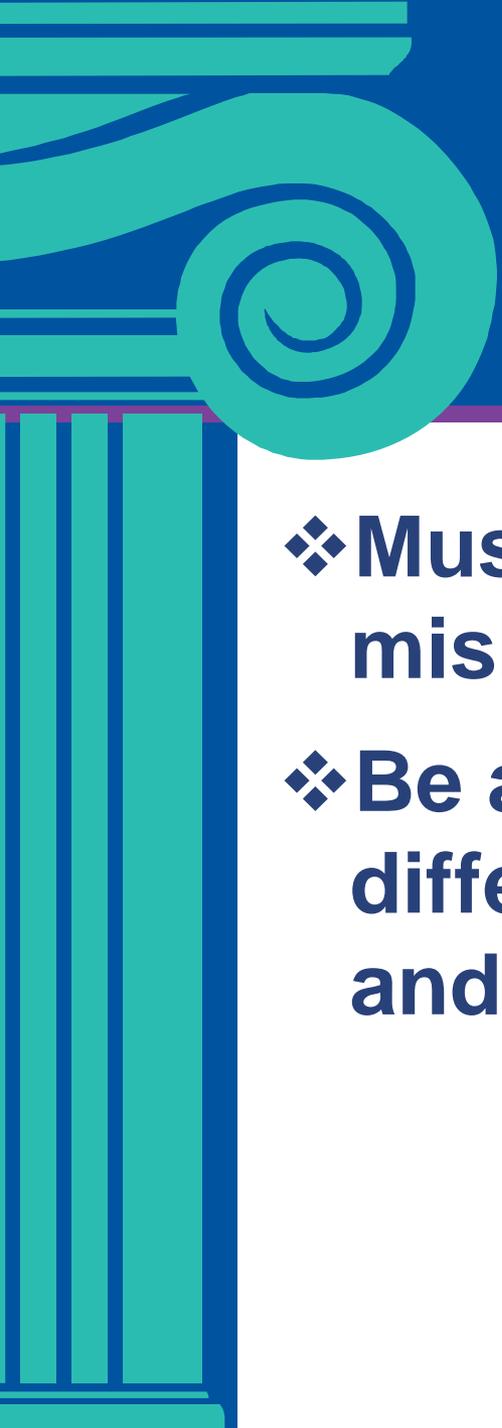
Professional Responsibility

- ❖ **Maintain professional standards of conduct.**
- ❖ **Communicate with colleagues to help prevent unethical behaviors.**
- ❖ **Serve the best interest of the victim.**



Respect for People's Rights and Dignity

- ❖ **Be committed to the victim's right to privacy, confidentiality, and self-determination.**
- ❖ **Value justice and equality.**
- ❖ **Be aware of personal biases.**



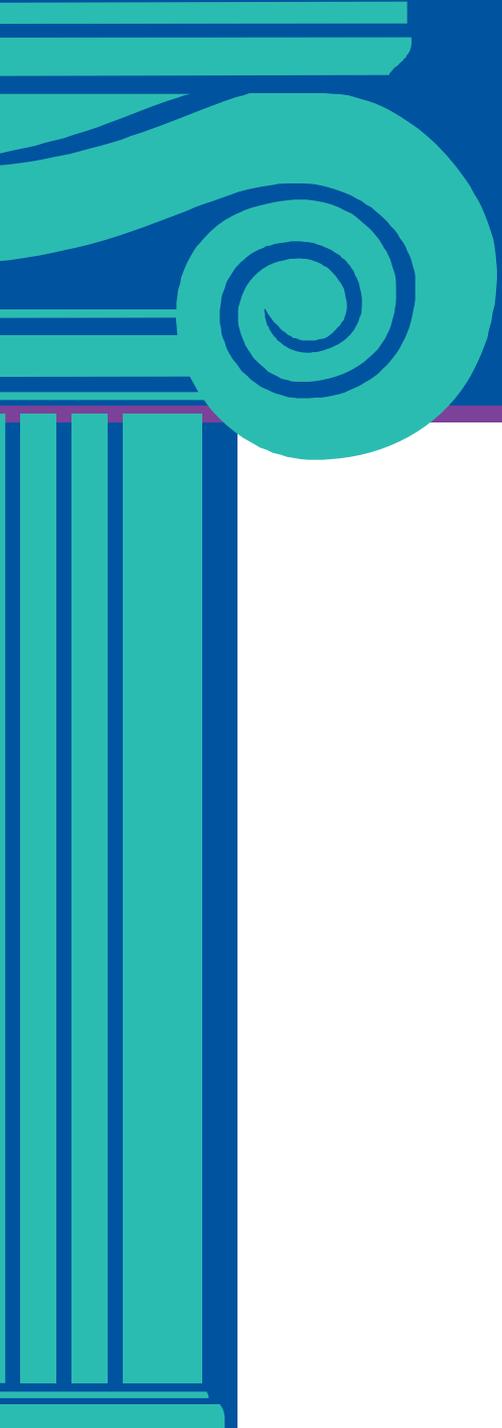
Concern for Others' Welfare

- ❖ **Must not abuse position or exploit or mislead others.**
- ❖ **Be aware of real or perceived differences in power between yourself and others.**



Social Responsibility

- ❖ **Educate yourself about professional, legal, and social responsibility.**
- ❖ **Be committed to reduction of crime and victimization.**



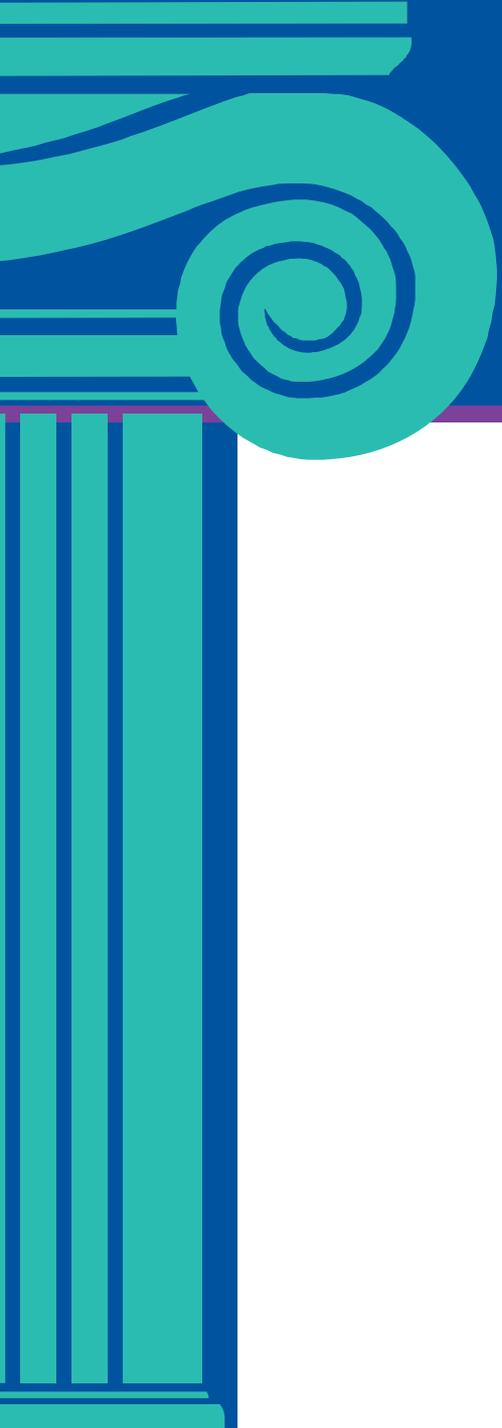
NVASC Standards for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers



Activity

Elderly Victim Worksheet 9.2

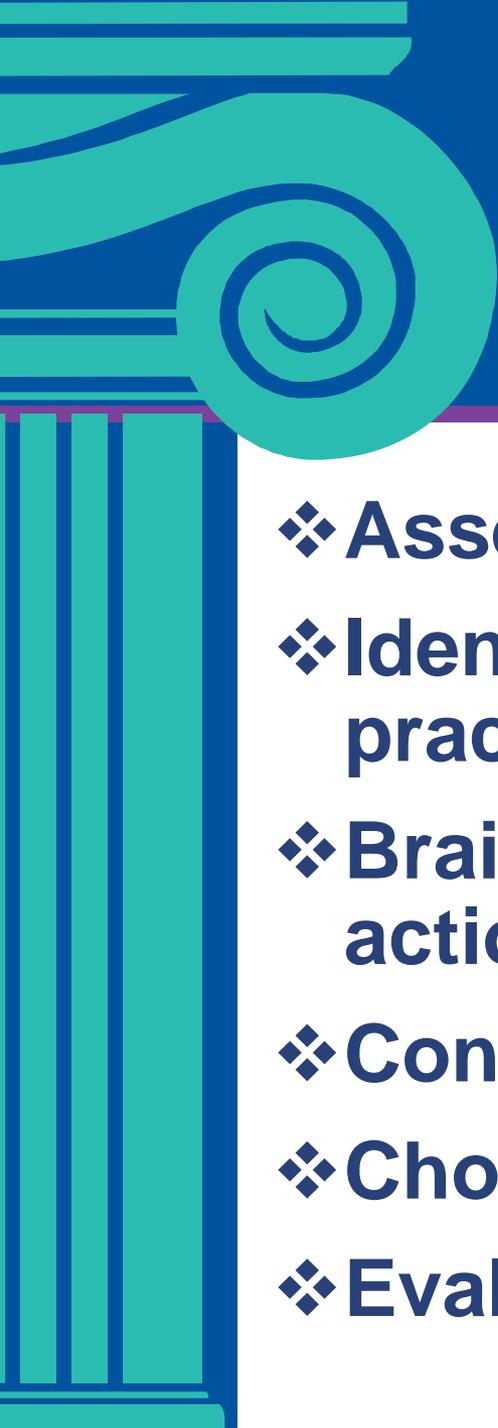
- ❖ **Complete the worksheet.**
- ❖ **Discuss in the large group.**
- ❖ **Turn in worksheet.**



Elderly Victim

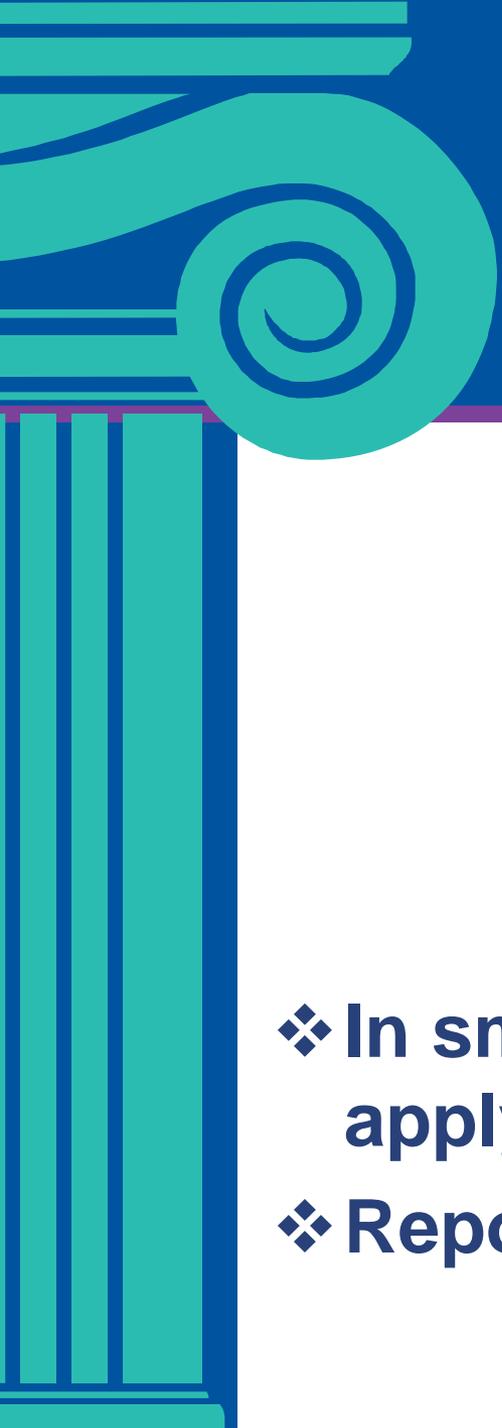


Ethical Decisionmaking



Ethical Decisionmaking Process

- ❖ **Assess facts.**
- ❖ **Identify the ethical standards and practical considerations in conflict.**
- ❖ **Brainstorm at least three courses of action and the consequences of each.**
- ❖ **Consult peers or supervisor.**
- ❖ **Choose the best option and act.**
- ❖ **Evaluate.**



Activity

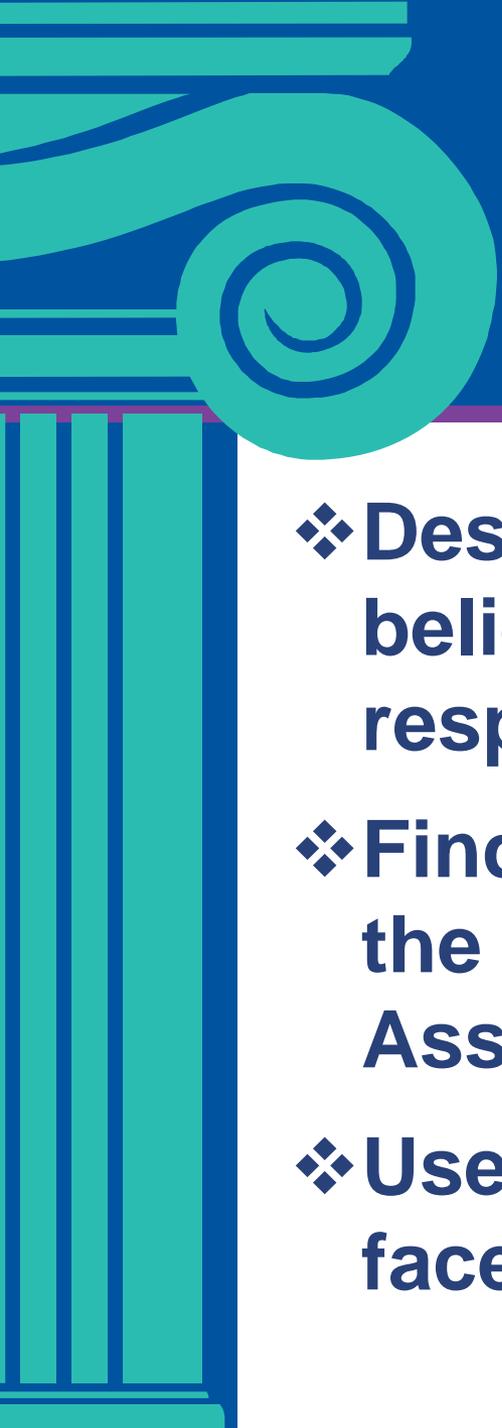
Applying the Decisionmaking Process Worksheet 9.3

- ❖ In small groups, read the dilemma and apply the decisionmaking process.
- ❖ Report out to the large group.



Ethical Victim Assistance Professional Means Knowing...

- ❖ The NVASC ethical standards and their importance.
- ❖ Yourself, your values and biases and how they might affect behavior.
- ❖ When you are facing an ethical dilemma.
- ❖ How to provide services considering interests of the victim despite personal values and biases.
- ❖ A decisionmaking process to determine actions.



Review of Learning Objectives

- ❖ Describe ways that your attitudes, beliefs, and values influence your responses to victims of crime.
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- ❖ Use a decisionmaking process when faced with an ethical dilemma.



Closing of Module 9

- ❖ **Questions?**
- ❖ **Comments?**