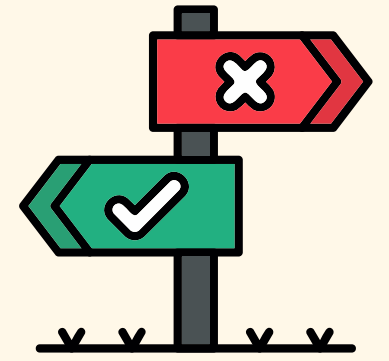
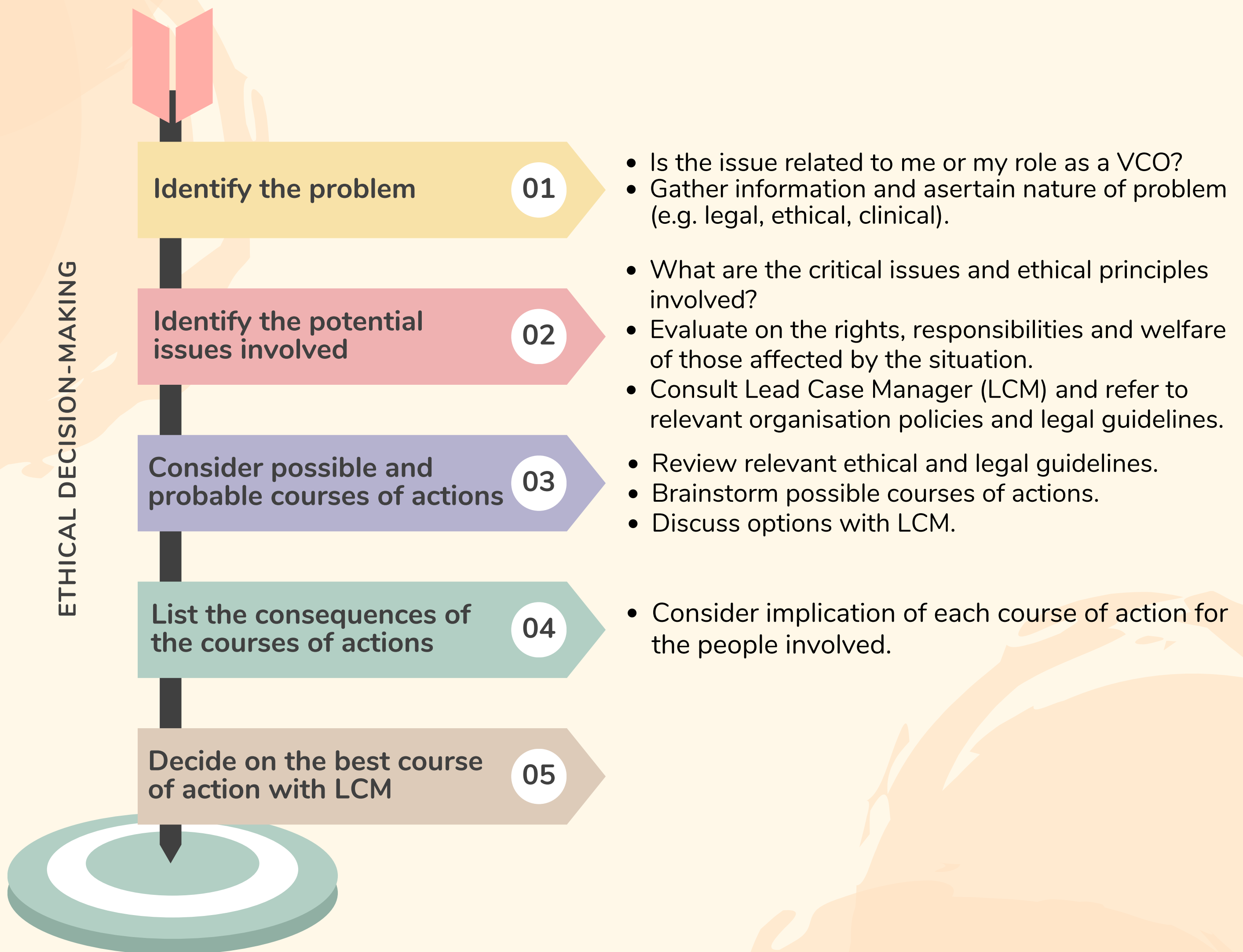


Ethical Decision-Making Series #2



In Series 1, we explored ethical decision-making through a scenario where a supervisee asked to borrow money. In this series, we'll explore the steps to take when a supervisee discloses involvement in illicit activities. Before diving into the case study, let's quickly recap the steps of ethical decision-making!



Now that we have recapped the steps to ethical decision making, let us practise with a case study!

Case Study

Supervisee shared with you that he was stressed recently due to work issues. When you asked how he had been coping, he admitted to getting some unknown pills from Geylang to boost his energy and manage stress.

He asked you not to share this with anyone as things at work have since improved and he has stopped taking the pills.
What would you do?

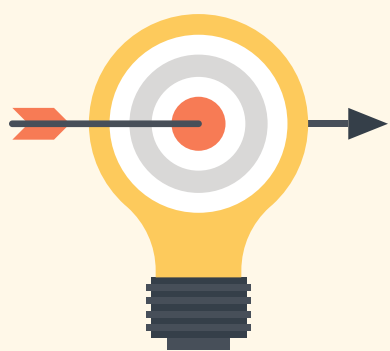


Let's practise!

Using the 5 steps above, let's take some time to brainstorm!



Kindly note that the guidelines below **are not exhaustive** and may vary based on individual comfort levels. As you work through the steps, take a moment to reflect on your own boundaries and what feels right for you.



Step 1: Identify the problem

Should I prioritise confidentiality or report his misuse of substances?



Step 2: Identify the potential issues involved

1. If I report this, it might affect our rapport and hinder his willingness to open up to me in future.
2. If I report this, the consequences imposed (e.g. recall) might set back his reintegration journey, especially since he has stopped taking the pills and reported improvement at work.
3. If I keep the information to myself, I may be seen as condoning the act and neglecting my duty to report.
4. If I keep the information to myself, he may think the behavior is acceptable and turn to substance use again when faced with stress.

Let's practise!

Kindly note that the guidelines below **are not exhaustive** and may vary based on individual comfort levels. As you work through the steps, take a moment to reflect on your own boundaries and what feels right for you.



Step 3: Consider possible and probable courses of actions

1. I can choose to keep the information confidential for now, while taking the opportunity to explore his motivations and reinforce the risks of substance use.
2. I can explain my duty to report, and share the rationale behind informing his LCM.



Step 4: List the consequences of the courses of actions

1. If I keep the information to myself but remind my supervisee of the dangers of substance use, this may preserve trust and the therapeutic alliance, but it risks sending the message that such behavior is acceptable and compromises my duty to report.
2. If I choose to report it, it upholds my ethical obligations, supports public safety and allows for appropriate interventions, but this may damage rapport and reduce his willingness to share in future.



Step 5: Decide on the best course of action with LCM

To Note: While VCOs are not bound by a professional code of conduct, you are still accountable to SPS policies. This includes the obligation to report any crimes or disclose intentions to commit a crime.

As you engage in the ethical decision-making process, please note that the scenario presented in this case study does **not** constitute an ethical dilemma. You are required to report any illicit activities or intentions disclosed by your supervisees.

That said, we understand this can be a difficult choice, especially when there is conflict between your duty to uphold policy and the relationship you've built with your supervisee. If you need support or guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the LCM.

