

TOM AND JACK

Scenario: Tom and Jack are good friends. Tom discovers that Jack is a drug pusher, a pusher of pills. Jack sells to high school students. His argument is that the kids know what the effects of the drugs are, and this relieves him of any responsibility.

Tom is quite disturbed by his friend's behavior. He seeks advice from his friend Jim who claims that Tom should not turn Jack in. Why? Because that would be meddling in something that does not concern him; furthermore, it would be betraying a friend. In addition, what good would it do? The kids who use drugs would just get them from somebody else.

Tom's girlfriend also thinks it would be a bad scene for him to turn Jack in to the authorities. The worst thing a person can do is to betray a friend.

On confronting Jack, Tom learns that he is willing to stop pushing after he gets rid of his current supply. But Tom is not at all convinced. He is in a real turmoil.

* Answer all questions in paragraph form, using any guidelines that we have so far looked at.

1. To whom does Tom owe the greatest responsibility--his friend or those who might purchase pills from him? Whose welfare should he be most concerned about? What if Jack had been his brother?
2. Why is there such a strong feeling that one should never tell on a friend? Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this feeling.
3. Does Tom have an obligation to interfere in Jack's drug pushing? What are some of the alternatives available to him to stop Jack? Discuss the consequences for each of alternatives that you have given.
4. When does someone have the responsibility to interfere in someone else's life? Suggest some guidelines to follow in answering this question.
5. Is it the seller's or buyer's responsibility if the buyer suffers some ill effects from the drugs? Does the age of the buyer have any bearing on this question?