Abstract

This is the documentation for the sub-subpage about Ross' "prime facie duties". It is a child page of "Origins".
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References 3
PRIMA FACIE DUTIES

The prima facie duties are as follows:¹

- duties of fidelity
- duties of reparation
- duties of gratitude
- duties of justice
- duties of beneficence
- duties of self-improvement
- duties of non-maleficence

1.1 Duties of Fidelity

Ross describes these duties as the duty to keep promises (whether they be explicit or implicit) and the duty to not publish fiction as fact.²

1.2 Duties of Reparation

These duties rest on previous acts, the obligation to right a wrongful act.³

1.3 Duties of Gratitude

These duties rest on the acts of others, and the obligation to be grateful to others who have acted in your interest.⁴


²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.
1. Prima Facie Duties

1.4 Duties of Justice

For Ross, justice means that a person must be awarded the privilege of happiness or pleasure based on his or her merit.\(^5\)

1.5 Duties of Beneficence

If one has the ability to improve another’s life, they have the duty to do so.\(^6\)

1.6 Duties of Self-Improvement

Ross believes that we have the responsibility to ameliorate our intelligence and improve our virtue.\(^7\)

1.7 Duties of Non-Maleficence

Ross makes sure to distinguish this duty from beneficence, explaining it as the duty not to harm others purposefully, nor to do so whilst seeking one’s own pleasure.\(^8\)

\(^*\)If conflict arises between two prima facie duties, the individual must determine which duty is their true responsibility based on their own opinion.\(^9\)

\(^6\) Ibid.
\(^7\) Ibid.
\(^8\) Ibid., 22.
REFERENCES
