



Online Ethics Center  
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

# Refusing to Sign/Seal Construction Documents (adapted from NSPE Case No. 96-3)

## Year

1999

## Description

An engineer moves from one firm to a competitor firm and questions about what obligations the engineer has with respect to unfinished work left behind are raised.

## Body

Engineer Anthony left firm A, at which he was an employee, to work for a competitor, firm B. A project on which he was in charge while at firm A was virtually completed before he left, but he did not sign or seal the construction documents before leaving. Bernard, a principle in the first firm, requests Anthony to sign and seal the drawing.

Can Anthony refuse to sign or seal the construction documents?

Can Anthony ask firm A to pay him for signing the documents?

What are Anthony's obligations with respect to the work he left behind?

[NSPE Code of Ethics](#) An earlier version may have been used in this case.

## **Notes**

See the original NSPE case at: [Refusing to Sign/Seal Construction Documents - Case No. 96-3](#).

## **Rights**

Use of Materials on the OEC

## **Resource Type**

Open-ended scenario

## **Parent Collection**

Professional Ethics in Engineering Practice: Discussion Cases Based on NSPE BER Cases

## **Topics**

Workplace Ethics

Employer/Employee Relationships

## **Discipline(s)**

Engineering

## **Publisher**

Online Ethics Center

Authoring Institution

Online Ethics Center