**Key Terms**

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Chapter 4: Making Moral Judgments

**derived principle** A value or prescriptive principle that is inferred from a more basic principle along with at least one descriptive claim.

**foundational principle** A value or prescriptive claim that serves as the basis for deriving other moral principles but is not itself derived from other moral principles.

**moral judgment** A moral claim that is limited to specific people or situations; for example, “I should keep my promise to her.”

**moral particularism** Maintains that universal moral principles are not necessary for determining what is right or wrong; instead, moral judgments must normally be made on a case-by-case basis.

**moral principle** A moral claim that holds in general and so is not limited to particular people or to a situation; for example, “People should keep their promises.”

**moral reasoning** A pattern of moral thinking that infers a moral judgment from one or more moral principles and descriptive claims.

**moral reflection** A pattern of moral thinking that does not infer a moral judgment from explicit principles but instead arrives at a moral judgment by considering the individuals and relationships involved in a particular setting.

**moral universalism** The view that that universal moral principles are central to morality and must be employed (via moral reasoning) to support any moral judgments.

**normative** Relating to some norm or standard; moral values and claims are normative

**override** To take precedence or priority over other values or prescriptions; moral values and claims may be characterized as overriding the values and claims of other normative realms.

**truth claim** Any statement that asserts something true or false; moral claims are characterized as truth claims.

**universalizable** Something that can commonly be generalized so that it holds for anyone; moral values and claims may be characterized as universalizable.