**Explanation of Mis/Mal/Non/feasance**

Persons who are in authority, including teachers, have responsibilities to the public, to their profession and to those they serve. The [Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida](http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/professional-practices/code-of-ethics-principles-of-professio.stml)  that was introduced in Module 1 outlines what is expected of teachers. Unfortunately, not all professionals live up to expectations. There are three basic types of infractions:

The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines **malfeasance** as "wrongdoing or misconduct especially by a public official."  This refers to a deliberate decision to do something that is not permitted by the Code of Ethics of the profession or law.

* The teacher was disciplined for requiring students to sell her craft products in order to receive participation points in class.
* She was charged with malfeasance.

The Merriam Webster definition of **misfeasance** is "the performance of a lawful action in an illegal or improper manner." The action is acceptable, however, the way in which the action was taken is NOT acceptable.

* Coach Vierra gave members of his track team higher grades on their essays than they earned.
* He was charged with misfeasance.

The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines **nonfeasance**as "failure to act; especially:  failure to do what ought to be done."   Yes, doing nothing can be wrong!  Not following through with a responsibility is also an infraction of the Code of Ethics

* Ms. Garzola was not at her bus duty station when a child was injured.
* A student told Mr. Stolz that hazing was happening in the lunchroom. Mr. Stolz told the student to mind his own business and did no further investigation
* Either of these teachers could be charged with nonfeasance.

If reported and confirmed, any of these types of infractions can result in a spectrum of disciplinary actions. These disciplinary actions are determined by the School Board policy in place. Infractions can also result in criminal prosecution if they break a civil law.