Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

On the request of his Personal Assistant (PA), the District Magistrate (DM) stops the transfer of a schoolteacher who takes private tuition for his daughter diagnosed with learning disability. In this context, discuss the aspects of empathy versus compliance with rules

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Empathy, rule compliance, discretion, conflict of interest, disability, fairness, impartiality, public trust

Model Answer

Introduction

The DM's action appears compassionate because the teacher provides specialised support to a child with a learning disability. However, empathy must operate within the boundaries of fairness and lawful administration.

1. Value of Empathy

Empathy enables administrators to understand individual difficulties and design humane solutions. The child's educational needs deserve genuine consideration.

2. Concern with Compliance

Stopping a transfer solely at the PA's request may constitute preferential treatment if the teacher has no legitimate entitlement to remain. It can undermine equality, impartiality and public trust.

3. Ethical Dilemma

The DM must balance compassion towards a vulnerable child against fairness towards other employees and students who may face similar circumstances.

4. Ethical Course

The DM should examine the applicable transfer policy and seek a general, rule-based accommodation, such as an exemption or alternative support mechanism, if legally permissible.

Conclusion

True empathy should inspire institutional solutions rather than personal favour. Compassion and rule-based fairness can coexist through transparent and generalisable discretion.

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