

D Fiduciary Obligations

- Core obligation owed is one of **undivided loyalty**
- The two core fiduciary obligations are:
 1. The **no-conflict rule**: a duty to not have a conflict between the interests of beneficiaries and the personal interests of the fiduciary - there must be ‘a **real sensible possibility of conflict**’: *Keech v Sandford* (1726); *Bell Group v Westpac Banking Corp* [2008], *Commonwealth Bank v Smith* (1991); or a ‘**significant possibility of conflict**’: *Boardman v Phipps* (1967), *Chan v Zacharia* (1984)
 - **Unauthorised remuneration**: financial benefit beyond what is authorised: *Reading v R* [1949]
 - **Assuming a double character**: acting in more than one capacity, for example in *Armstrong v Jackson* [1917], a stockbroker was acting as both a buyer (on behalf of Armstrong) and as a seller of shares
 - **Benefits derived to the exclusion of the person to whom the fiduciary obligation is owed**: any profit for gain obtained in a situation where a conflict or a significant possibility of conflict existed or obtained or used by reason of his fiduciary relationship

<i>Boardman v Phipps</i> (1967)	
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Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boardman (trust’s solicitor) and Tom Phipps (beneficiary) bought personal shares in trust company and used information acquired while acting as agents to restructure it • Ultimately all parties (including beneficiaries) earned increased profits • Joan Phipps (other beneficiary) sued for breach of fiduciary obligation
Issue	Was there a breach of fiduciary obligation even though the beneficiaries were better off?
Held	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was found the pair acted alone and took advantage of the opportunity they had because of the trust – they hadn’t obtained fully informed consent • Defendants ordered to hold their shares on constructive trust for the beneficiaries • Fiduciaries cannot act in their own interest, even if it benefits the beneficiaries • Leading case on no-conflict rule