

Why People Commit Fraud: The Fraud Triangle Revealed

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Welcome to our exploration of the fraud triangle, a concept that sheds light on the motivations behind workplace fraud. Developed by Dr Donald Cressey, this theory helps us understand why ordinary people might commit their first act of fraud. Let's dive into the first corner of the fraud triangle: incentive

What drives someone to consider fraud? Often, its financial pressure. This could stem from personal debt, addiction, or the desire for a more lavish lifestyle. It's the spark that ignites the idea of fraud as a solution.

Next up: opportunity. This is where an individual sees a path to commit fraud with minimal risk. It could be exaggerating work hours, fabricating invoices, or selling confidential information. The key here is the perception of a foolproof plan, essential for maintaining one's social status or financial stability without getting caught.

Lastly: rationalization. After identifying an incentive and an opportunity, the individual justifies their actions. They might not view themselves as criminals but as victims of circumstance. Whether it's thinking of it as 'borrowing', feeling entitled due to perceived injustices, or simply trying to survive, rationalization allows them to proceed with their fraudulent actions.

Fraud is a complex issue in the business world, challenging to eradicate completely. Yet, understanding the Fraud Triangle - Incentive, Opportunity, and Rationalization - provides valuable insights. It helps companies devise strategies to mitigate fraud, protecting their operations and fostering an ethical workplace culture. Remember, awareness is the first step towards prevention.

Thank you for joining us in uncovering the intricacies of the Fraud Triangle. Stay informed and vigilant to foster integrity and trust within your professional environment.

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