

The Possibility of Moral Rights

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Abstract

The aim of this article is to show that (1) “right” can have a moral meaning; and (2) moral duties are divided into those that correspond to moral rights and those that do not. A moral right is a kind of right that is rooted in moral considerations, and states or expresses such considerations. There are at least two ways to argue for these claims: the first is to examine the justificatory foundations of rights, showing that the justification that is available for some rights is a moral justification (section 2), and the second is to examine the role, status and function of rights in morality and moral discourse (section 3).

Keywords: Moral Right; Moral Duty; Right and Justice; Private Morality; Public Morality; Morality and Politics; Law and Morality.

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