



Decision Accountability Framework

What DAF Is — and What It Is Not

Purpose of This Document

This document clarifies the intended nature, scope, and use of the Decision Accountability Framework (DAF). Its purpose is to prevent misunderstanding or misuse of the framework by clearly distinguishing what DAF is designed to do and what it is explicitly not intended to do.

What DAF Is

The Decision Accountability Framework is a structured framework designed to support decision accountability by making professional decision reasoning explicit at the moment decisions are taken. It provides a stable decision structure that helps professionals articulate the considerations that informed their judgment under conditions of uncertainty, time pressure, and competing demands.

DAF focuses on decision reasoning rather than decision outcomes. It captures what was known at the time, which considerations were relevant, how uncertainty and potential impact were weighed, and why a particular course of action was chosen. In doing so, DAF supports explainability, consistency, and transferability of professional judgment across individuals and teams.

DAF is intentionally lightweight and designed for use in day-to-day professional practice. It can be applied across sectors and organizational contexts without prescribing specific decisions, procedures, or outcomes. The framework preserves professional discretion while providing a shared structure for accountability.

DAF is an explanatory framework. Its purpose is to make reasoning visible, not to justify decisions after the fact.

What DAF Is Not

DAF is not a decision-making method and does not determine what the “right” decision is in any given situation. It does not replace professional judgment, expertise, or sector-specific standards.

DAF is not a legal defense framework. It is not designed to protect organizations or professionals from liability, nor to serve as evidence of legal compliance. The framework does not provide legal advice and does not replace legal counsel.

DAF is not a compliance, audit, or performance evaluation tool. It does not assess the quality of decisions, measure outcomes, or evaluate individual professionals. It does not introduce new reporting obligations, procedural requirements, or performance metrics.

DAF is not a narrative or reflective instrument. It explicitly avoids persuasive, emotional, or outcome-based language, as well as retrospective justification or hindsight-driven reasoning.



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What DAF Does Not Replace

Use of DAF does not replace applicable laws, regulations, policies, professional standards, or organizational procedures. Organizations and professionals remain fully responsible for ensuring that decisions comply with all relevant legal, regulatory, and professional requirements.

DAF complements existing governance and accountability structures by strengthening the explainability of decision reasoning, not by substituting for formal oversight or review mechanisms.

Intended Use of DAF

DAF is intended to be used at key decision moments where professional judgment must later be explainable to others who were not present at the time the decision was taken. It is particularly suited for environments in which decisions carry significant responsibility and may be reviewed retrospectively.

The framework is designed to reduce hindsight bias, support continuity across personnel changes, and improve clarity during accountability processes, without encouraging defensive or adversarial documentation practices.

Closing Statement

The Decision Accountability Framework does not aim to eliminate uncertainty or difficult decisions. Its purpose is to ensure that professional decisions can be understood in light of the information, constraints, and judgment that existed at the time they were made.

DAF supports accountability by making decision reasoning explicit — not by determining outcomes, assigning blame, or providing legal protection.