



IAAO Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct

Adopted by the IAAO Board of Directors, _____

Preamble

Members and certificants (referred to herein collectively as “members”) of the International Association of Assessing Officers (“IAAO”), as well as non-members of IAAO involved in IAAO activities, should conduct themselves in a professional manner that reflects favorably upon themselves, the organization, the appraisal profession, and the property tax system, and should avoid any action that could discredit themselves or these entities. They should exhibit appropriate professional conduct in their interactions with all individuals whom they encounter in connection with their professional roles, including colleagues, employees, clients, and owners of property subject to assessment.

This Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct (the “Code”) establishes the minimum standards of conduct to which all IAAO members must adhere. We must do more, however, than simply obey the rules. Public trust in our performance is the foundation of our credibility. We must therefore embrace the highest ethical principles, and the pursuit of excellence, accountability, transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness must be integral to our behavior. This is embodied in the IAAO Statement of Values, which serves as a foundation for the Code.

IAAO Core Values

The core values of the International Association of Assessing Officers include the following:

- *We are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.*
- *We embrace transparency, integrity, honesty, and stewardship of resources.*
- *We respect the worth and dignity of all individuals.*
- *We are dedicated to excellence in assessment administration and the property tax system worldwide.*
- *We are accountable to the public good.*
- *We encourage the appropriate use of technology and tools for fair and equitable assessment administration.*

These core values are reflected in the following Code of the International Association of Assessing Officers.

The Code

This Code sets out Canons of Ethics, to which all members should strive to adhere in their professional roles and in their activities as a member of IAAO. Each Canon is accompanied by enforceable Ethical Rules. Violation of an Ethical Rule, supplying misleading or false information to the Ethics Committee or refusing to cooperate with an Ethics Committee proceeding may subject a member to disciplinary action, sanction, or revocation of membership.



Exceptions

If compliance with or adherence to any Canon or Ethical Rule set forth in the Code would constitute a violation of the law of any jurisdiction, such Canon or Ethical Rule shall be void and of no force or effect in such jurisdiction.

In stating each individual Canon or Ethical Rule, no attempt has been made to enumerate all of the various circumstances and conditions that will excuse an IAAO member from strict observance; however, IAAO recognizes that illness, acts of God, and various other events beyond the control of an IAAO member may make it inequitable to insist upon a strict observance in a particular case. When an IAAO member, in the exercise of reasonable care, commits a violation due to illness, acts of God, or other circumstances beyond their control, it is expected that the Ethics Committee will act in a manner that will avoid an inequitable result.

Canon 1: Professional Duties

Members shall conduct their professional duties and any activities as a member of IAAO in a manner that reflects credit upon themselves, their profession and the organization.

Ethical Rules

ER 1-1 Members shall not conduct their professional duties in a manner that could reasonably be expected to create the appearance of impropriety.

ER 1-2 Members shall not accept an appraisal or assessment-related assignment which they are not qualified to perform.

ER 1-3 Members shall follow local laws and regulations relating to the appraisal, assessment, and taxation of property within their jurisdictions.

ER 1-4 Members must make available all public records in their custody for public review, unless access to such records is specifically limited or prohibited by law, or the information has been obtained on a confidential basis and the law permits such information to be treated confidentially.

ER 1-5 Members must make reasonable efforts to inform the public about their rights and responsibilities under the law and the property tax system.

ER 1-6 Members shall cooperate with public officials to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the property tax system, and of public administration in general.

ER 1-7 Members shall not engage in misconduct of any kind that leads to a conviction, guilty plea, or no contest plea, for a crime directly related to the member's professional role or involving fraud, dishonesty, or false statements, or for which the underlying facts relating to the conviction constitute a violation of these Canons or Ethical Rules.



ER 1-8 Members shall not violate an applicable law in the performance of a member's professional role or in interactions with those a member encounters in connection with the member's professional role, including laws prohibiting harassment, discrimination, or retaliation in the workplace.

ER 1-9 Members shall not engage in harassment, discrimination, or retaliation in connection to IAAO activities.

Canon 2: Truthfulness

Members shall not make false or misleading statements (written or oral) in the course of performing their professional duties.

Ethical Rules

ER 2-1 Members shall not provide inaccurate, untruthful, or misleading information to solicit assessment-related assignments or use misleading claims or promises of relief.

ER 2-2 Members shall not claim or imply that they have specific qualifications unless they in fact have such qualifications.

ER 2-3 Members shall not claim, imply, or hold themselves out as having an IAAO professional designation unless authorized by IAAO to do so.

ER 2-4 Members shall provide appropriate attribution to the source(s) of any materials quoted or cited in writings or speeches.

Canon 3: Conflict of Interest

Members shall not engage in any activities in which they have, or may reasonably be considered by the public as having, a conflict of interest.

Ethical Rules

ER 3-1 Members shall not accept an appraisal or assessment-related assignment that can reasonably be construed as being in conflict with their responsibility to their jurisdiction, employer, or client, or in which they have an unrevealed personal interest or bias.

ER 3-2 Members shall not accept an assignment or responsibility in which there is a personal interest (whether individually or of a member's family or close personal connection) without full disclosure of that interest.

ER 3-3 Members shall not accept an assignment or participate in an activity where the member is or could reasonably be perceived as being unable to conduct the assignment or activity in an unbiased, objective manner.



Canon 4: Support of IAAO

Members shall abide by and support the provisions of the IAAO governing documents, rules, and policies.

Ethical Rules

ER 4-1 Members shall not violate the IAAO governing documents, rules, or policies.

ER 4-2 Members shall not knowingly make false statements or submit misleading information when completing an IAAO application for membership or professional designation, and shall promptly submit any significant information in the possession of such member when requested to do so as part of an IAAO application.

ER 4-3 Members shall cooperate fully with the IAAO Board of Directors, Ethics Committee and the staff of IAAO in all matters related to the enforcement of this Code, as set forth in the IAAO governing documents and specific rules and procedures for enforcement, as may be adopted and amended by the Board of Directors from time to time, including by timely providing complete and accurate information as requested.

ER 4-4 Members shall submit promptly any significant information in the possession of a member concerning the status of litigation related to an ethics matter when requested to do so by the chair of the Ethics Committee; and shall not knowingly submit misleading information to the chair of the Ethics Committee concerning the status of litigation.

ER 4-5 Members shall not knowingly provide any false information to the IAAO, or cheat or assist another in cheating in connection with any course or examination, including any IAAO professional designation test.

Canon 5: Compliance with Appropriate Professional Practice Standards

Members shall comply with the applicable standards of practice in their jurisdiction.

Ethical Rules

ER 5-1 Members in the United States shall observe the requirements of the *Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice* and members residing outside the United States shall follow appraisal standards that govern appraisers within their jurisdiction.