

## **VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS**

The Code of Conduct represents the proper ethic and conduct for board members when interacting with colleagues, patients, and the public. It includes the observance of and compliance with the Board of Dentistry's policies, and procedures as well as the rules and regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### **A Board of Dentistry Member**

- **Refrains from harm to the public, profession, or staff**
- **Makes the public health and safety the first and most important consideration in all actions and discussions as a member of the Board of Dentistry**
- **Strives to do that which is right and good by**
  - Not interfering with reporting, investigations, or adjudication of alleged violations of the statutes or regulations governing practice
  - Refraining from any contact with respondents, witnesses and their legal counsel before or after a notice or order has been issued
  - Respecting the public right to self determination and confidentiality
  - Respecting the legal, personal rights, dignity and privacy of all members of the Profession, Board, and individuals who are subject to investigation
  - Maintaining confidentiality and safeguarding all Board of Dentistry materials that are confidential in nature
  - Obtaining and maintaining knowledge of governmental laws, rules and regulations that govern the practice of Dentistry in the Commonwealth of Virginia
  - Complying with the Dental Practice Act and related rules and regulations of the Commonwealth that promote public health and safety of all citizens
  - Reporting violations of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Dental Practice Act, Environmental Protection Act, pharmacology and radiological safety health rules and regulations
  - Reporting illegal or unethical acts of others whether inside or outside the dental professions that would endanger the public

- **Maintains proper attire, decorum, and behavior during any meeting concerning matters of the Board of Dentistry by**
  - Treating all people fairly regardless of race, color, gender and ethnic origin
  - Making statements that are true and founded on fact
  - Recusing oneself if there is a conflict or perceived conflict
  - Always behaving ethically, without a conflict of interest. Refraining from becoming involved in investigations and cases where there is a cause for ethical dilemmas
  - Preparing for each meeting by reading all required materials and informing the President if not able to prepare
  - Being on time for each meeting
  - Silencing personal devices
  - Informing the Executive Director if going to be tardy or miss a meeting
  - Ensuring that demeanor and body language remains appropriate
  - Being fair, equitable, impartial and consistent
  - Allowing for an orderly conduct of all meetings, hearings, and conferences
  - Protecting the rights to due process and protecting the integrity of the individuals who appear before the Board
  - Accepting the decisions made by the Board regardless of personal opinion
  
- **Conducts oneself in a manner which will maintain or elevate the integrity of the Board and the esteem of the dental professions by**
  - Keeping knowledge and skills current in relation to the professions of Dentistry
  - Avoiding communication and relationships that could impair your professional judgment or the risk of exploiting confidences

- Consulting the Executive Director of the Board of Dentistry if any ethical or controversial dilemmas should arise affecting your duties as a member of the Board of Dentistry
- Seeking consultation when necessary from the Executive Director, staff, Board Counsel, or experts when appropriate through correct channels
- Seeking appropriate advice and guidance when faced with unresolved ethical dilemmas
- Not claiming to represent, speak, or write opinions of the Board of Dentistry without prior permission from the Executive Director in concert with the President of the Board of Dentistry
- Not discussing matters of confidentiality or conducting business outside the Board of Dentistry regular meetings which include matters pertaining to the Board of Dentistry with other members of the Board of Dentistry without a proper quorum or authority to conduct such matters
- Only undertaking assignments that one is qualified to perform completely and without a conflict of interest
- Representing the Board of Dentistry without impairment from substance abuse, cognitive deficiency or mental illness
- Increasing professional competency through continuous learning always incorporating knowledge into your actions and decision-making; being accurate and consistent
- Reporting violations of the Code of Conduct to Executive Director of the Board of Dentistry who reports the violations to the President of the Board and the Director of the Department of Health Professions
- Refraining from actions that expose the Board of Dentistry to legal, ethical, or financial risks
- Maintaining professional boundaries in relationships with other members of the Board of Dentistry
- Always acting in the best interests of the Board of Dentistry by conducting oneself with honesty and integrity at all times