

CODE OF ETHICS*
PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The privilege of professional practice imposes obligations of morality and responsibility as well as professional knowledge.
2. Each Professional Soil Scientist (hereafter called Member) agrees to be guided by the highest standards of ethics, personal honor, and professional conduct.

ARTICLE II. RELATION OF PROFESSIONAL TO THE PUBLIC

1. A Member shall avoid and discourage sensational, exaggerated, and/or unwarranted statements that might induce participation in unsound enterprises.
2. A Member shall not knowingly permit the publication of his reports or other documents for any unsound or illegitimate undertaking.
3. A Member shall not give professional opinion or make a recommendation without being as thoroughly informed as might reasonably be expected considering the purpose for which the opinion or recommendation is desired; and the degree of completeness of information upon which it is based should be made clear.
4. A Member may publish dignified business, professional, or announcement cards, but shall not advertise his work or accomplishments in a self-laudatory, exaggerated, or unduly conspicuous manner.
5. A Member shall not issue a false statement or false information even though directed to do so by employer or client.

ARTICLE III. RELATION OF PROFESSIONAL TO EMPLOYER AND CLIENT

1. A Member shall protect, to the fullest extent possible, the interest of his employer or client insofar as such interest is consistent with the law and his professional obligations and ethics.
2. A Member who finds that his obligations to his employer or client conflict with his professional obligation or ethics should have such objectionable conditions corrected or resign.
3. A Member shall not use, directly or indirectly, any employer's or client's information in any way which would violate the confidence of the employer or client.
4. A Member retained by one client shall not accept without client's written consent, an engagement by another if the interests of the two are in any manner conflicting.
5. A Member who has made an investigation for any employer or client shall not seek to profit economically from the information gained, unless written permission to do so is granted, or until it is clear that there can no longer be a conflict of interest with the original employer or client.
6. A Member shall not divulge information given him in confidence.
7. A Member shall engage, or advise his employer or client to engage, and cooperate with, other experts and specialists whenever the employer's or client's interests would be best served by such service.
8. A Member shall not accept a concealed fee for referring a client or employer to a specialist or for recommending professional service other than his own.

ARTICLE IV. RELATION OF PROFESSIONALS TO EACH OTHER

1. A Member shall not falsely or maliciously attempt to injure the reputation of another.
2. A Member shall freely give credit for work done by others to whom the credit is due and shall refrain from plagiarism in oral and written communications, and not knowingly accept credit rightfully due another person.
3. A Member shall not use the advantages of salaried employment to compete unfairly with another member of his profession.
4. A Member shall endeavor to cooperate with others in the profession and encourage the ethical dissemination of technical knowledge.
5. A Member having knowledge of unethical practices of another Member shall avoid association with that Member in professional work.

ARTICLE V. DUTY TO THE PROFESSION

1. A Member shall aid in exclusion from membership those who lack moral character, who have not followed this Code of Ethics, or who do not meet the requirements for membership.
2. A Member shall uphold this Code of Ethics by precept and example and encourage, by counsel and advice, other Members to do the same.
3. A Member having positive knowledge of deviation from this Code by another Member shall bring such deviation to the attention of the Executive Council.

* Adapted from the Code of Ethics of the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils.