

Principles of Ethics

Chapter III, Section 8 of the Minnesota Dental Association *Bylaws* states:

"The Principles of Ethics of the American Dental Association, the Principles of Ethics of this Association, and the Principles of Ethics adopted by the component district society shall be the principles of ethics of that component district society for governing the professional conduct of its members."

Whenever there arises between members of the Minnesota Dental Association a grave difference of opinion regarding professional conduct or questions of an ethical nature which cannot be adjusted, the dispute should be referred for consideration and settlement as follows:

- A. To the committee assigned responsibility for ethical matters or similar committee of the component society.
- B. Should the verdict of a component society committee be unsatisfactory to the accused, appeal may be made to the committee of the Minnesota Dental Association assigned responsibility for ethical matters.
- C. Should the verdict still be unsatisfactory, appeal may be made for settlement to the American Dental Association Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs.
- D. When differences arise between members of their respective component societies or official units thereof, and such differences cannot be adjusted within such units, the matter should be referred to the committee of the Minnesota Dental Association assigned responsibility for ethical matters and thereafter to the American Dental Association Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs.
- E. It shall be the ethical duty of every member to cooperate with the MDA committee responsible for matters of ethics and the Peer Review Committee and to comply with the requirements of these and other official committees of the Minnesota Dental Association and of the component societies so as to enable such committees to perform their designated function.
- F. Any violation of the considered judgment and opinion of the Minnesota Dental Association as expressed by the House of Delegates or Board of Trustees should be considered as a breach of the *Principles of Ethics*.
- G. Component societies are urged to establish *Principles of Ethics* not inconsistent with that of the parent association, particularly with respect to those parts of the parent association's *Principles of Ethics* purposely left to component societies, designed to afford them more precise regulations.

The foregoing and the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct will serve as the Minnesota Dental Association Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.

MDA Member Conduct Policy

This MDA Member Code of Conduct was adopted by the 2012 (amended 9-13-2024) House of Delegates and reads as follows:

Conduct Policy:

1. Members should communicate respectfully in all public settings and in all professional and Association activity.
 - a. Demeaning or derogatory language in any communication, including social media and/or web-based media, is deemed unacceptable.
 - b. Respectful communication shall be maintained in discussions regarding any practice mode or setting, and such respect shall be extended to an individual's choice of professional practice mode or setting.
2. Members shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the ADA's objectives of diversity and inclusion, and refrain from any behavior unbecoming a dental professional.
3. Members should abide by the decisions and policies of the Association and not undermine or impair their implementation or application. Members may express dissent or non-conforming alternatives via proper organizational channels.
4. Members have an obligation to be informed about and use Association policies for communication and dispute resolution.
5. Members are expected to comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to antitrust laws and regulations and statutory and common law fiduciary obligations.
6. Members must respect and protect the intellectual property rights of the Association, including any trademarks, logos, and copyrights.
7. Members must not use Association membership directories, on-line member listings, or attendee records from Association-sponsored conferences or CE courses for personal or commercial gain, such as selling products or services, prospecting, or creating directories or databases for these purposes.
8. Members must treat all confidential information furnished by the Association as such and must not reproduce materials without the Association's written approval.
9. Members must not violate the attorney-client privilege, or the confidentiality of executive sessions conducted at any level within the Association.
10. Members must fully disclose conflicts, or potential conflicts, of interest and make every effort to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest.