

ETHICS AND PLANNERS



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AICP Professional Code of Ethics

- ◆ Updated in 2005 after a four-year public process
- ◆ Very similar to the previous code



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New Code Highlights

- ◆ Divided into three sections
 - Aspirational Standards
 - Rules of Conduct
 - Procedures



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Aspirational Standards

- ◆ We ascribe to “aspirational principles that constitute the ideals to which we are committed. We shall strive to act in accordance with our stated principles. However, an allegation that we failed to achieve our aspirational principles cannot be the subject of a misconduct charge or be a cause for disciplinary action.”



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Our Overall Responsibility to the Public



- ◆ Our primary obligation is to serve the public interest and we, therefore, owe our allegiance to a conscientiously attained concept of the public interest.....



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AICP Code of Ethics 1.b



- ◆ We shall have special concern for the long-range consequences of present actions.

AICP Code of Ethics 1.f.

- ◆ We shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration. We shall urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs.



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Our Responsibility to our Clients and Employers

- ◆ We owe diligent, creative, and competent performance of the work we do in pursuit of our client or employer's interest. Such performance, however, shall always be consistent with our faithful service to the public interest.



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AICP Code of Ethics 2. b

- ◆ We shall accept the decisions of our client or employer concerning the objectives and nature of the professional services we perform unless the course of action is illegal or plainly inconsistent with our primary obligation to the public interest.



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Our Responsibility to Our Profession and Colleagues

- ◆ We shall contribute to the development of, and respect for, our profession by improving knowledge and techniques, making work relevant to solutions of community problems, and increasing public understanding of planning activities.



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AICP Code of Ethics 3. c.

- ◆ We shall describe and comment on the work and views of other professionals in a fair and professional manner.



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AICP Code of Ethics 3. h.

- ◆ We shall continue to enhance our professional education and training.



Rules of Conduct

- ◆ We adhere to the following Rules of Conduct, and we understand that our Institute will enforce compliance with them. If we fail to adhere to these Rules, we could receive sanctions, the ultimate being the loss of our certification.



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Rules of Conduct 6.

- ◆ We shall not perform work on a project for a client or employer if, in addition to the agreed upon compensation from our client or employer, there is a possibility for direct personal or financial gain to us, our family members, or persons living in our household, unless our client or employer, after full written disclosure from us, consents in writing to the arrangement.



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Scenario

- ◆ You've completed about 90% of the work on a project for a client when you are advised at a family dinner that a cousin of your wife is a silent partner in your client's business. You have been assured by the city's planning staff that your client's project has a very good chance of being approved. What will you do?



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Rules of Conduct 10.

- ◆ We shall neither deliberately, nor with reckless indifference, misrepresent the qualifications, views and findings of other professionals.



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Scenario

- ◆ A large consulting firm calls you and asks about a competitor's reputation. One of your fellow planners had a very bad experience with this competitor. What information do you share with the prospect? How do you respond to the call?



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Rules of Conduct 15.

- ◆ 15. We shall not accept work beyond our professional competence unless the client or employer understands and agrees that such work will be performed by another professional competent to perform the work and acceptable to the client or employer.



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Scenario

- ◆ You are managing a major project that involves substantial public funds. The project's consultant (and AICP member) has subcontracted out many aspects of the project. You are beginning to believe that one of the subcontractors (whose principal is also an AICP member) has misrepresented its qualifications based upon the work that has been completed so far. What are your next steps?



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Got scenarios??



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Our Code Procedures

- ◆ In brief, our Code Procedures (1) describe the way that one may obtain either a formal or informal advisory ethics ruling, and (2) detail how a charge of misconduct can be filed, and how charges are investigated, prosecuted, and adjudicated.



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Our Code Procedures

- ◆ Formal advice
 - Only the Ethics Officer (Paul Farmer)
 - It's binding
 - Findings within 21 days
 - Forwarded to the Ethics Committee



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Our Code Procedures

- ◆ Informal advice
 - Paul Farmer



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How do you use the Code?



◆ www.planning.org



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Thank you for your participation in
this session!



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