

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ENFSI



CODE OF CONDUCT			
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1. Policy

ENFSI forensic practitioners must have a clear understanding of their duties and responsibilities and should fulfil these at all times according to this code of conduct.

As an ENFSI forensic practitioner you must:

2. Duties and Responsibilities

Behaviour

- 1. Act with honesty, integrity and objectivity.
- 2. Not discriminate on grounds of race, beliefs, gender, language, sexual orientation, social status, age, lifestyle or political persuasion.
- 3. Recognise that your overriding duty is to justice.
- 4. Declare to your client and employer any prior involvement or personal interest which may give rise to a conflict of interest, real or perceived, and act in such cases only with the client's explicit written consent.
- 5. Declare to your employer any pressure to influence the result of an examination.

Competence

- 6. Know the limits of your competence and provide expert advice and evidence only within those limits.

7. Decline to undertake work if you are not competent to carry it out or do not have access to the necessary facilities or equipment.

Casework

- 8. Take all reasonable steps to ensure you have the information necessary to carry out the work required.
- 9. Take all reasonable steps to gain access to all relevant available evidential materials necessary to reach a meaningful conclusion.
- 10. Establish, as far as is reasonably practicable, whether any evidential materials may have been compromised before coming into your possession.
- 11. Ensure that, except when it is necessary to conduct destructive tests, the integrity and security of evidential materials are maintained whilst in your possession, and the integrity and security of any information derived from all evidential material is also maintained.
- 12. Carry out all your work in accordance with the established principles of your profession, using validated methods, wherever possible, and appropriate equipment and materials.
- 13. Accept full responsibility for all work done under your direction.
- 14. Conduct all your professional activities in a manner, which protects the health and safety of yourself, your colleagues and the public.

Reporting

- 15. Present your advice and evidence, whether written or oral, in a balanced and impartial manner.
- 16. Be prepared to reconsider and, if necessary, change your advice, conclusions or opinion, in the light of new information or new developments in the relevant field, and to take the initiative in informing your client and employer promptly of any such changes made.
- 17. Take appropriate action if you have good grounds for believing there is a situation which could result in a miscarriage of justice.

- 18. Preserve client confidentiality unless:
 - a) explicitly authorised by the client or mandator to disclose specified information;
 - b) ordered by a court or tribunal to disclose specified information;
 - c) required by the law to disclose specified information available to a designated person; or
 - d) there is an overriding duty to the court and the justice system for disclosure.

Continual professional competence

- 19. Take all reasonable steps to maintain professional competence, taking account of material research and developments within the relevant field.