



Washington Hearing Society CODE OF ETHICS (2015)

FORWARD

This Code of Ethics of the Washington Hearing Society (The Society) has been prepared for, and is subscribed to, by all of its members. These principles of professional conduct are a voluntary effort to assure the highest quality professional service is afforded to the hearing impaired of our state.

PREAMBLE

This is a Code of Ethics for members of the hearing health care professions who are engaged in the testing of human hearing, and in the selection, fitting, dispensing and servicing of hearing instruments. This Code of Ethics sets standard of professional integrity and practice, including relationships with patients, colleagues, and the general public. These ethical principles are standards by which The Society and its individual professional members determine the propriety of their conduct. Adherence to these standard is required for membership in good standing in the Society, and further serves to assure public confidence in the integrity of the services of our profession.

The members of The Society represent the full spectrum of professional service the hearing impaired, including Hearing Aid Specialists, Audiologists, Physicians, Students, Business Owners, and Manufacturers. In addition to this Code of Ethics, members must also abide by the Code of Ethics of the International Hearing Society. It is also incumbent upon each member to abide by all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the practice of their profession(s) and the dispensing of hearing instruments.

PRINCIPLE I: Conduct and Relationship with the Patient

Members of The Society engaged in the practice of testing human hearing, selection, fitting, dispensing, and servicing hearing instruments, shall, in every aspect of their practice, hold the welfare of the patient paramount.

It is a violation of this Code of Ethics for a member to take any action or make any recommendation that knowingly places a patient's safety at risk or which places the interest of the member above that of the patient.

PRINCIPLE II: Discrimination

The members of The Society shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services on the basis of race, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or marital status.

PRINCIPLE III: Standards of Practice

Maintaining high standards of practice and training each member of The Society is in the best interest of the patient, The Society, its members, and of the profession as a whole.

It is a violation of this Code of Ethics for members to engage in a professional activity, which lies outside the scope of practice for which they are licensed or certified, and currently trained.

PRINCIPLE IV: Responsibility to the Profession and Professionals

Members of The Society are encouraged to associate with all groups and organizations having as their objectives, the betterment of the profession. Each member has a duty to observe all laws, rule, and regulations applicable to the dispensing of hearing instruments, to uphold the dignity and honor of the profession, and to accept its ethical principles. Members shall engage in no activity that will discredit or disgrace the profession, and they shall expose, without fear or favor, any illegal or unethical conduct within the profession.

PRINCIPLE V: Professional Representation and Advertising

In neither the performance nor the marketing and advertising of their professional services, shall members of The Society make any untrue, misleading, or deceptive statement or representation in regard to their qualifications, certifications, licenses, or to the nature and availability of their services and/or products. Each member of The Society shall abide by all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations applicable to the practice of their professions and the advertising of their professional skills or business entity.

PRINCIPLE VI: Discipline

The members of The Society pledge themselves to observe This Code of Ethics and to conduct all aspects of their professional practices accordingly. By violating any part of this Code of Ethics, a member may be subject to suspension or removal from membership in The Society. This Code of Ethics is interpreted and enforced by the Executive Board of The Society. Upon violation of any part of this Code of Ethics, the Executive Board may, after investigation and hearing, discipline members in accordance with procedures established by the By-Laws of The Society.