

SWGFAST

Guidelines for Professional Conduct

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PREAMBLE

I shall, as a practitioner of the fingerprint science, regard myself as a member of a noble and honorable profession. It is my duty to serve the interests of justice to the best of my abilities at all times. I will be guided by those practices and procedures, which are generally recognized within the profession to be consistent with a high level of professionalism. My motives, methods, and actions shall at all times be above reproach and consistent with proper moral conduct.*

- A. I shall cooperate with other professionals in the forensic sciences to promote its advancement through scientific research. Knowledge of any new discoveries, developments or techniques applicable to the forensic sciences shall be shared with the peer community;
- B. I shall not undertake examinations or give testimony in areas in which I am not qualified;
- C. Expertise is based on training, study, experience, and judgment. I shall not misrepresent my qualifications of expertise;
- D. I shall make examinations of evidentiary items utilizing accepted scientific techniques and methods which are reliable and accurate with appropriate standards and controls;
- E. Techniques and opinions shall be based on facts and interpretations and shall not be knowingly misrepresented;
- F. I shall render unbiased testimony and endeavor to promote the understanding of my examinations and findings in an impartial manner;
- G. I shall keep all privileged communications confidential;
- H. If deemed to have merit, any transgressions of this Guidelines for Professional Conduct shall be reported to the proper authorities.

*These guidelines are not intended to supercede or supplant any other code(s) of ethics.