

**Pacific Northwest Division of the
International Association for Identification
Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct**

The ethical and professionally responsible Pacific Northwest Division of the International Association for Identification (PNWD-IAI) member or certificant:

Professionalism

- 1.01 Is unbiased, and objective, approaching all assignments and examinations with due diligence and an open mind.
- 1.02 Conducts full and fair examinations in which conclusions are based on the evidence and reference material relevant to the evidence, not on extraneous information, political pressure, or other outside influences.
- 1.03 Is aware of his/her limitations and only renders conclusions that are within his/her area of expertise and about matters for which he/she has given careful consideration.
- 1.04 Truthfully communicates with all parties (i.e., the investigator, prosecutor, defense, and other expert witnesses) about information related to his/her analyses, when communications are permitted by law and agency practice.
- 1.05 Maintains confidentiality of restricted information obtained in the course of professional endeavors.
- 1.06 Reports to appropriate officials any conflicts between his/her ethical/professional responsibilities and applicable agency policy, law, regulation, or other legal authority.
- 1.07 Does not accept or participate in any case in which he/she has any personal interest or the appearance of such an interest and shall not be compensated based upon the results of the proceeding.
- 1.08 Conducts oneself personally and professionally within the laws of his/her respective jurisdiction and in a manner that does not violate public trust.
- 1.09 Reports to the appropriate legal or administrative authorities unethical, illegal, or scientifically questionable conduct of other practitioners of which he/she has knowledge.
- 1.10 Does not knowingly make, promote, or tolerate false accusations of a professional or criminal nature.
- 1.11 Supports sound scientific techniques and practices and does not use his/her position to pressure a practitioner to arrive at conclusions or results that are not supported by reliable scientific data.

Competency and Proficiency

- 2.01 Is committed to career-long learning in the forensic disciplines in which he/she practices, and stays abreast of new technology and techniques while guarding against the misuse of methods that have not been validated.
- 2.02 Expresses conclusions and opinions that are based on generally accepted protocols and procedures. New and novel techniques must be validated prior to implementation in case work.
- 2.03 Is properly trained and determined to be competent through relevant testing prior to undertaking the examination of the evidence.
- 2.04 Gives utmost care to the treatment of any samples or items of potential evidentiary value to avoid tampering, adulteration, loss or unnecessary consumption.
- 2.05 Uses controls and standards, including reviews and verifications appropriate to his/her discipline, when conducting examinations and analyses.

Clear Communications

- 3.01 Accurately represents his/her education, training, experience, and area of expertise.
- 3.02 Presents accurate and complete data in reports, testimony, publications and oral presentations.
- 3.03 Makes and retains full, clear and accurate records of all examinations and tests conducted, and conclusions drawn, in sufficient detail to allow meaningful review and assessment of the conclusions by an independent person competent in the field.
- 3.04 Does not falsify or alter reports or other records, or withhold relevant information from reports for strategic or tactical litigation advantage.
- 3.05 Testifies to results obtained and conclusions reached only when he/she has confidence that the opinions are based on good scientific principles and methods. Opinions are to be stated so as to be clear in their meaning.
- 3.06 Attempts to qualify his/her responses while testifying when asked a question with the requirement that a simple "yes" or "no" answer be given, if answering "yes" or "no" would be misleading to the judge or the jury.

The ethical and professionally responsible Pacific Northwest Division of the International Association for Identification (PNWD-IAI) member:

Organizational Responsibility

- 4.01 Does not misrepresent his/her affiliation with the PNWD-IAI.
- 4.02 Does not issue any misleading or inaccurate statement that gives the appearance of representing the official position of the PNWD-IAI.
- 4.03 Reports violations of this code of which he/she knows to the President of the PNWD-IAI.
- 4.04 Cooperate fully with any official investigation by the PNWD-IAI.