

# Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is a set of behavioral expectations intended to assure the public that the Board and its individual members uphold the highest level of integrity and ethical standards. The following principles provide the foundation for assuring public trust in professional regulation:

- Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-2, “there is established the North Carolina Medical Board to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery for the benefit and protection of the people of North Carolina.”
- The mission of a regulatory board for a licensed profession is to ensure that the public will have access to competent, safe, and ethical practitioners in the profession.
- Members of a regulatory board must familiarize themselves with the laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures that govern their service on the board.
- The work of regulatory boards for the licensed professions is public service, not private interest or group advocacy.
- Regardless of whether a member of a regulatory board is a licensee in that same profession or a public member, it is essential for each board member to represent the public; that is, all of the people. Board members do not represent the profession, or any other private group.
- Members of regulatory boards must strive beyond the norm to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest that may compromise the integrity of the board.
- Members of regulatory boards must strive beyond the norm to avoid any relationship, activity or position that may influence, directly or indirectly, the performance of his or her official duties as a board member.
- Board members are required to adhere to the code of conduct set forth herein and other applicable ethical obligations imposed upon public servants.

## **Therefore, each member of the North Carolina Medical Board shall:**

1. Fulfill the oath to uphold the laws of North Carolina regarding the practice of medicine for the protection of the public;
2. Read and maintain a working knowledge of the laws, rules and policies under which the Board operates;
3. Prepare for, attend, and participate in the meetings of the Board and committees to which the member has been appointed;
4. Ensure each matter is dealt with in a fair, equitable, impartial and just manner based on what is best for the people of North Carolina;
5. Reveal actual or perceived conflicts of interest and recuse oneself from Board decision making when appropriate. If a Board member identifies a conflict or appearance of conflict, the Board member should recuse oneself and thereafter refrain from any participation in or discussion of the particular matter involved. During a contested case

hearing, those Board members who are recused will remain out of the room where the hearing is taking place during the entirety of the hearing;

6. Shall not have private contracts or business dealings with the Board, other than Board member compensation or reimbursement as authorized by law;
7. Shall not solicit or receive a gift or favor from any person, company, or organization which may compromise or appear to compromise the independent judgment of the Board member regarding fulfillment of any Board or Board member obligation;
8. Shall not attempt to obtain favorable treatment by the Board for any individual or entity;
9. Shall not use his or her position on the Board to advance any private interest;
10. Avoid an actual or perceived conflict of interest by not serving as an expert reviewer or expert witness in a potential or pending medical malpractice case;
11. Ensure the rights to due process and protect the integrity of individuals and agencies who appear before the Board;
12. Accept responsibility and accountability for the decisions made by the Board, regardless of personal opinion;
13. Maintain confidentiality of confidential documents, information, and general Board matters;
14. Demonstrate mutual respect and support for each other and the staff of the Board in all Board related activities;
15. Not speak or act for the Board without proper authorization;
16. Avoid advising and/or conferring with those licensees and/or their legal counsel who have been issued or may be issued charges by the Board;
17. Unless recused, avoid communicating with any member of the legal department regarding any matter in which the Board has issued charges; and
18. Ensure that whenever a majority of the Board or any committee thereof meets to discuss Board business that the meeting complies with the Open Meetings Law.
19. A Board member shall at all times maintain a perspective consistent with the enforcement of the relevant laws and rules in the interest of public protection, and not in protection of the professional interests of the licensees;
20. A Board member shall not be a registered lobbyist or advocate for any professional organization or industry trade association during the term of the board member's appointment to the Board; and
21. Annually sign a statement acknowledging the member has read and understood the above Code of Conduct.

Read and agreed to this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

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Print

Signature

Please complete and return to Executive Assistant, Loney Johnson.