

South African Academy of Forensic Sciences (SAAFS)

Code of Conduct

The following code is endorsed and shall be followed by all members of SAAFS to promote the highest quality of professional and personal conduct of its members. With this in mind, members shall:

- a. Avoid misrepresentation of their own or any person's qualifications, education, training, experience, competence or area of expertise.
- b. Limit their professional service and professional comments to their recognised area(s) of expertise.
- c. Clearly distinguish professional comments from personal opinions (based on personal views).
- d. Refrain from providing any misrepresentation of data or results upon which an expert opinion or conclusion is based, and conclusions and statements of members should be without bias.
- e. Take responsibility for the integrity of their work.
- f. Keep accurate and clear records of their work in such a manner as to allow verification of such work by others.
- g. Disclose potential conflicts of interest.
- h. Conduct themselves in an honourable manner that is in line with the best interest, goals and purposes of SAAFS.
- i. Refrain from issuing public statements which appear to represent the position of SAAFS without first obtaining written permission from the Board of SAAFS, or its mandated representative.
- j. State their membership category in full, when disclosing their membership.
- k. Abide by the procedures and guidelines on the subject of professional conduct as prescribed by the Board of SAAFS.
- l. Bring to the attention of the Board of SAAFS, any violation of this Code of Conduct by a SAAFS member.
- m. Keep information related to SAAFS confidential, where appropriate.
- n. Adhere to any national legislative prescripts and to the stipulations and spirit of the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity, when conducting research.

Please note:

SAAFS reserves the right to expel members who do not act in accordance with this Code of Conduct or who are deemed to bring SAAFS into disrepute by their actions.

Clarification of terminology:

In line with the stipulations of the ISO 17025:2017 standard, use of the following terms will have the meanings stated below:

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|------|--------|---|---------------------------------------|
| i. | Shall | - | Indicates a requirement |
| ii. | Should | - | Indicates a recommendation |
| iii. | May | - | Indicates a permission |
| iv. | Can | - | Indicates a possibility or capability |

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