

Delaware Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors

13.0 Professional Conduct - Code of Ethics

13.1 Foreword. Honesty, justice and courtesy form a moral philosophy which, associated with mutual interest among men and women, constitutes the foundation of ethics. The surveyor should recognize such a standard, not in a passive observance, but as a set of dynamic principles guiding his/her conduct and way of life. It is his/her duty to practice his/her profession according to this Code of Ethics.

As the keystone of professional conduct is integrity, the surveyor will discharge his/her duties with fidelity to the public, his/her employers and clients, and with fairness and impartiality to all. It is his/her duty to interest his/herself in the public welfare, and to be ready to apply his/her special knowledge for the benefit of mankind. He/she should uphold the honor and dignity of his/her profession and avoid association with any enterprise of questionable character. In his/her dealings with fellow surveyors he/she should be fair and tolerant.

13.2 Professional Life.

13.2.1 The surveyor will cooperate in extending the effectiveness of the surveying profession by interchanging information and experience with other surveyors and students and by contributing to the work of surveying societies and associations, schools and the scientific and surveying press.

13.2.2 It shall be considered unprofessional and inconsistent with honorable and dignified bearing for any surveyor to advertise his/her work in a false or deceptive manner that may mislead the public.

13.2.3 The surveyor will avoid all conduct or practice likely to discredit or do injury to the dignity and honor of his/her profession.

13.2.4 Because superior and distinct knowledge of surveying is essential to the profession, it is imperative for the surveyor to continue his/her education.

13.2.5 The surveyor shall not permit the use of his/her professional seal on any work over which he/she was not in responsible charge.

13.3 Relations With The Public.

13.3.1 The surveyor will endeavor to extend public knowledge of surveying and will discourage the spreading of untrue, unfair and exaggerated statements regarding surveying.

13.3.2 He/she will have due regard for the safety of life and health of public and employees who may be affected by the work for which he/she is responsible.

13.3.3 He/she will express an opinion only when it is founded on adequate knowledge and honest conviction while he/she is serving as a witness before a court, commission or other tribunal.

13.4 Relations With Clients and Employers.

13.4.1 The surveyor will act in fairness and in a professional manner toward each client or employer and produce a quality survey regardless of price.

13.4.2 He/she will engage, or advise his/her client or employer to engage, and he/she will cooperate with, other experts and specialists whenever the client's or employer's interests are best served by such service.

13.4.3 He/she will disclose no information concerning the business affairs or technical processes and data of clients or employers without their consent.

13.4.4 He/she will not undertake work which he/she believes will not be successful without first advising his/her client of his/her opinion.

13.4.5 He/she will promptly disclose to his/her client or employer any interest in a business which may compete with or affect the business of his/her client or employer. He/she will not allow an interest in any business to affect his/her decision regarding surveying work for which he/she is employed, or which he/she may be called upon to perform.

13.4.6 An employed surveyor will not solicit or accept other employment to the detriment of his/her regular work or the interests of his/her employer.

13.5 Relations With Surveyors.

13.5.1 The surveyor will see that those licensed to survey are properly qualified by character, ability and training and those who prove unworthy of their privileges are disciplined.

13.5.2 He/she will uphold the principle of appropriate and adequate compensation for those engaged in surveying work, including those in subordinate capacities, as being in the public interest and maintaining the standards of the profession.

13.5.3 He/she will endeavor to provide opportunity for the professional development and advancement of surveyors in his/her employ.

13.5.4 He/she will not directly or indirectly injure the professional reputation, prospects or practice of another surveyor. However, if he/she discovers an error or disagrees with the work of another surveyor, it is the duty of that surveyor to inform the other surveyor of such fact.

13.5.5 He/she will not review the work of another surveyor for the same client, except with the knowledge or consent of such surveyor or unless the connection of such surveyor with the work has been terminated.

13.5.6 He/she will not compete with another surveyor on the basis of charges by reducing his/her normal fees after having been informed of the charges named by the other, or undertake any work at a price that will not permit a satisfactory professional performance. Any offer of professional service should be on the basis of his/her regular fees.

13.5.7 He/she will not use the advantages of a salaried position (public or private) to compete unfairly with another surveyor, or use the advantages of instruments and office facilities (public or private) to compete with other surveyors without charging for such instruments and facilities at current rates.

13.5.8 He/she will not attempt to practice in any field of surveying in which he/she is not proficient. He/she should call in special consulting services to supplement his/her own experience and that of his/her organization on problems outside of their usual field.