

State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board Code of Ethics

Overview: Ethical behavior is based on shared values and principles which guide and support individuals and groups to avoid actual, or the appearance of, conflicts of interest, positively contribute to discussion and decision making, maintain public trust, and effectively carry out the duties entrusted to them.

Principles: The public should reasonably expect that individuals and groups, who serve government, to be trustworthy and accountable for the performance of their duties. This is demonstrated by, but not limited to:

- Understanding and abiding by the expectations and obligations of their position;
- When uncertain, to seek out information and interpretation to ensure that actions and decisions are ethical;
- Accepting personal responsibility for the foreseeable consequences of action and inaction of the Board;
- Taking into account the long-term interests of the government and the citizens;
- Recognizing that members shall not use knowledge of a confidential nature to further personal interest or to violate the privacy and confidentiality of information entrusted to them;
- Interact with the public and with other members of the Board in a respectful manner with concern, courtesy and responsiveness;
- Not knowingly engage in any activity or business which creates a real or perceived conflict of interest or has an adverse effect on the confidence of the public in the integrity of government
- Performing the duties of the Board with integrity, truthfulness, and honesty;
- Upholding the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Code of Virginia, and the laws and legal regulations of the United States of America;
- Not discriminating by dispensing special favors or privileges to anyone, for remuneration or not; and never accepting, for oneself or family, favors or benefits under circumstances which may be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of ones governmental duties;
- Making no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of office, as no Board member has a private word which can be binding on public duty;
- Engaging in no business with the Commonwealth of Virginia, either directly or indirectly, which is in conflict with the conscientious performance of ones governmental duties;
- Never utilizing the power vested in the position as a means to affect influence or use any confidential information received in the performance of Board duties as a means of personal gain;
- Promptly reporting any actual or perceived violation of ethical conduct;
- Upholding these principles ever conscious that the public office is a public trust.
- Accurately represent the unique concerns of the members' constituent group in Board discussions and decisions, and then support by word and action any decision reached by the Board.

Additional specifics regarding prohibited conduct may be found in Virginia Code § 2.1-639.4

