

Code of Ethics and Conduct with Interpretive Discussion

Preamble

The Code of Ethics and Conduct of the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants is based on beliefs about the nature of individuals and society. The code of professional and ethical conduct provides guidelines to its members for professional performance and behavior. The success of any professional organization results from the competence and integrity of its members. Our goal to those we serve is that they be assured of our accountability.

We recognize a responsibility to other professional organizations with which we are aligned, in particular, the American Nurses Association (ANA). We accept and abide by the principles of the ANA code of ethics and conduct. By our support of the ANA, we affirm that the right and trust placed in us will not be violated.

- 1. The legal nurse consultant maintains professional nursing competence.** The legal nurse consultant is a registered nurse and maintains an active nursing license. The legal nurse consultant is knowledgeable about the current scope and standards of legal nursing practice and advocates for these standards. The legal nurse consultant does not practice law.
- 2. The legal nurse consultant's primary obligation is to apply their nursing, medical and healthcare knowledge and expertise to their professional practice .** The analysis of the medical legal implications of legal nursing practice includes applying the nurses unique insight into the surrounding support systems and clinical circumstances of each case.
- 3. The legal nurse consultants work is free from bias.** The legal nurse consultant does not discriminate against any person based on race, creed, color, age, sex, national origin, social status or disability and does not let personal attitudes interfere with professional performance. Individual differences do not influence professional performance and practice. Financial or other relationships that may give an appearance of or create a conflict of interest will be disclosed. These factors are understood, considered and respected when performing activities.
- 4. The legal nurse consultant performs as a consultant or an expert with the highest degree of integrity.** Integrity refers to uprightness, honesty, and sincerity. The legal nurse consultant directs those attributes to the requirements of the profession. Integrity is a personal and sacred trust and the standard against which the legal nurse consultant must ultimately test all decisions. Honest errors and differences of opinion may occur, but deceit, poor judgment, or lack of principles must not be tolerated
- 5. The legal nurse consultant uses informed judgment, objectivity and individual professional competence as criteria when accepting assignments.** The legal nurse

consultant does not purport to be competent in matters in which he or she has limited knowledge or experience. Only services that meet high personal and professional standards are offered or rendered

6. **The legal nurse consultant protects client privacy and confidentiality.** The legal nurse consultant uses confidential materials with discretion. The legal nurse consultant respects and protects the privacy of the client. The legal nurse consultant does not use any client information for personal gain
7. **The legal nurse consultant maintains standards of personal conduct that reflect honorably upon the profession.** The legal nurse consultant abides by all local, state and federal laws and other regulatory requirements. The legal nurse consultant who knowingly becomes involved in unethical or illegal activities negates professional responsibility for personal interest or personal gain. Such activities jeopardize the public confidence and trust in the nursing profession and is unacceptable to the profession.
8. **The LNC integrates ethical considerations into their professional relationships within the healthcare and legal industries.** The legal nurse consultant works to achieve their client's goals while at the same time maintaining their professional responsibility to give accurate, independent nursing/medical/healthcare information and advice. The legal nurse consultant contributes to resolving ethical issues in practice, reports illegal, incompetent or impaired practice and promotes respect for the judicial system.
9. **The legal nurse consultant is accountable for responsibilities accepted and actions performed.**

Conclusion

Each individual's personal commitment to the Code of Ethics and Conduct of the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants is the ultimate regulator of his or her behavior. By adopting this Code of Ethics and Conduct, we affirm to those with whom we serve that they have the right to expect us to abide by this code.

As members of the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants, we pledge to embrace and demonstrate this commitment of integrity and professional excellence.

For more information, contact:

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By the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants