



Code of Ethics

FSSM

July 2012

Forensic Science Society of Malaysia

"Advancing Forensic Sciences"

Purpose and scope

The Code of Ethics is developed to assist the members of Forensic Science Society of Malaysia in maintaining high standards of professional and personal conduct, improving the practice, elevating the standards and advancing forensic sciences.

General

- Members shall refrain from exercising professional or personal conduct adverse to the interests and objectives of the Society
- Members shall not use the membership of the Society to obtain unjustified privileges for themselves.
- Members shall not disclose confidential information received regarding other members or the activities of the Society.
- No member shall issue unauthorized public statements representing the Society.

Work Performance

- Members should strive to keep current and maintain competence in their scientific discipline.
- Members should strive for excellence and the highest degree of integrity.
- Members shall be aware of personal limitations and shall avoid any intentional misrepresentation of qualification, experience and training.
- Members shall undertake cases and give opinions only within the limits of one's expertise.
- Any potential conflicts of interest shall be disclosed, and work discontinued.
- Generally accepted scientific principles and methods shall be used. However, the use of a novel method is not discouraged when circumstances warrant.
- Examination shall be thorough and sufficient number of tests applied to reach conclusions and the required standard of proof.
- Objectivity should be maintained at all times.
- Scientific results and expert opinion shall be clearly differentiated.
- As an expert witness, members should make every effort to give a clear presentation in court in an objective and moderate manner using understandable language.
- Errors or omissions discovered prior to, during or after a proceeding shall be disclosed immediately.

Ethical Responsibilities

- Members shall refrain from seeking publicity for oneself or his/her accomplishments on a specific case.
- Members should attempt to identify, deter, and help eliminate unethical behaviour by other members.
- Information concerning new discoveries, developments, or techniques applicable to the field of forensic sciences should be made available in order to advance the profession.
- Members should instill the highest ethical and scientific standards in other members by setting a good example or through publications and presentations at meetings.

Acknowledgements

The following Codes of Ethics are referred to and/or adapted for the proposed Code of Ethics for Forensic Science Society of Malaysia (Mac 2011):

1. Code of Ethics of the California Association of Criminalists
2. Code of Ethics of the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, Inc. (NEAFS)
3. Code of Ethics of Australia New Zealand Forensic Science Society
4. ASCLD Code of Ethics
5. Code of Conduct of Canadian Society of Forensic Science
6. Code of Ethics and Conduct of the American Academy of Forensic Science

July 2012