

AAG Code of Ethics

General Principles

1. Each member of The Association of Applied Geochemists shall conduct his/her affairs in accordance with the highest standards of ethics, personal honor, scientific integrity, and professional conduct. The word "member" as used throughout this Code of Ethics shall refer to individuals in any class of membership in The Association of Applied Geochemists

2. Each member shall be held to a duty of honesty, integrity, loyalty, fairness, impartiality, candor, fidelity to trust, and inviolability of confidence.

Duties of Members to the Public

3. A member shall avoid and discourage sensational, exaggerated, and unwarranted statements with regard to professional matters that might induce participation in unsound enterprises.

4. A member shall not knowingly permit the publication of reports or maps he/she has prepared for any unsound, illegitimate, or illegal undertaking.

5. A member shall not give a professional opinion, make a report, or give legal testimony without being as thoroughly informed as might reasonably be expected given the purpose for which the opinion, report, or testimony is desired. In giving or making such an opinion, report, or testimony, a member shall disclose the extent to which such opinion, report or testimony is based upon incomplete knowledge or information.

6. A member may publish dignified business, professional or announcement cards, but shall not advertise his work or accomplishments in a self-laudatory or unduly conspicuous manner.

7. A member shall not issue a false statement or false information even though directed to do so by an employer or client.

8. No member may use his/her membership in the Association to promote his/her commercial interests, except that Fellows and Honorary Members may list their category of membership on the internet, stationery, business cards, and professional notices in accordance with Section 2.12.

9. A member shall protect, to the fullest extent possible, the interest of his/her employers or clients so far as is consistent with the public welfare and his/her professional obligations and ethics.

10. A member who finds that his/her obligations to his/her employer or client conflict with his/her professional obligations or ethics shall either remove such conflict of duties or withdraw his/her professional services from such employer or client.

11. It is the duty of a member who has any interest, whether direct or indirect, which may conflict with the interests of an employer or client to disclose the existence of the interest to such employer or client.

12. A member shall not use, whether directly or indirectly, any confidential information of an employer or client which is in any way competitive, adverse, or detrimental to the interest of such employer or client.

13. A member retained by one client shall not accept, without that client's written consent, an engagement by another client if the interests of the two clients in any way conflict.

14. A member who has obtained by secret information during the course of this work for any employer or client shall not seek to make a personal profit from such information unless permission in writing to do so is granted by such employer or client, or until it is clear that the use of such information by the member shall not prejudice the employer or client in any way.

15. A member shall not divulge information given to him/her in confidence.

16. A member shall engage or advise his/her employer or client to cooperate with other experts and specialists whenever the employer's or client's interests would be best served by doing so.

17. A member shall not accept a concealed fee or secret commission for referring a client or employer to a specialist or for recommending geochemical services other than his/her own.

18. A member shall present professional work and reports without falsification or fabrication of data, misleading statements, or omission of relevant facts.

19. A member shall distinguish facts and observations from interpretations.

20. A member shall accurately cite authorship, acknowledge the contributions of others, and not plagiarize.

Duties of Members to Each Other

21. A member shall not falsely or maliciously attempt to injure the reputation or business of another member.

22. A member shall not state as his/her own knowledge or belief information which he/she has obtained from another member and shall freely attribute other members as the source of such knowledge or belief.

23. A member shall endeavor to cooperate with other applied geochemists in the study and dissemination of applied geochemistry.

Duties of Members to the Association

24. A member shall endeavor to ensure that candidates for membership are fit and proper persons to be elected members.

25. It shall be the duty of every member not only to uphold the standards of this Code of Ethics in precept and by example, but also, where necessary, to encourage by counsel and advice to other members, their adherence to such standards.