

**CODE OF ETHICS**  
**for**  
**Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado**

Hereinafter (“Surveyors”)  
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 18, 1978  
AMENDED 2010

**INTRODUCTION**

Professional excellence can only be achieved and maintained by persons who recognize that in their endeavors there are some actions that they should perform, some actions that they should not perform, and some actions that they may perform or not as they choose. The need for a standard, against which the individual can measure these actions, is self-evident. If these actions are to be a united force for excellence within the group as a whole, then the standard with which they are to be measured shall be made known.

**SCOPE**

This code is specific for surveyors as professionals. The scope of this code is limited to the actions of surveyors in their relations with the following:

- I. General Public
- II. Client and Employers
- III. Other Land Surveyors and Employees

**I. The General Public**

A. Community Obligations – Surveyors have a duty to concern themselves with community improvements and to apply their special skills and knowledge for the benefit of fellow surveyors and for mankind.

1. Surveyors will incorporate in their activities prudent long range planning for the wellbeing of the community.
2. Surveyors shall be unbiased in performing services for the client, maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity; and offer impartial advice based on their accurate and conscientious measurements, data review, and legal principles while protecting the safety and welfare of the public at all times.

B. Professional Image – Surveyors have an obligation to contribute to the public knowledge of surveying. The conduct of surveyors must be such as to impress the layman with the dignity and honor of the profession of surveying. Surveyors must defend it against misrepresentation and ignorance, and shall not stand idly by when it is destructively criticized. Surveyors shall not associate with any enterprise of questionable character. Surveyors will diligently and faithfully

execute their role according to the law, and maintain their objectivity, without prejudice or favor towards or against the client or the public.

1. Surveyors will only make statements about surveying and surveyors when they have factual knowledge of each case. When serving as an expert witness before any tribunal, the surveyor will only state opinions when based upon adequate personal knowledge.
2. Surveyors will not lend their name and reputation to any enterprise about which they are not thoroughly informed and in which they do not have a positive belief.
3. Surveyors will not advertise work or service in a self-laudatory manner. It is proper for surveyors to advertise availability to perform professional services, for which they are qualified, in a restrained and dignified manner.

## **II. Clients and Employers**

A. Duties to Client and Employer – The professional services of surveyors are of such a nature as to require the confidence and trust of their clients or employer. Surveyors must not undertake questionable projects or those for which they are not qualified.

1. Surveyors will promptly advise their clients when they believe a project is not feasible.
2. Surveyors will not divulge confidential information, or the private or secret affairs of their clients or employers, without their specific consent.
3. Surveyors will promptly advise their clients or employer to secure additional expert assistance when needed.
4. Surveyors will not sign or seal any plat or document that does not meet accepted professional standards.
5. Surveyors will not give implied consent to any plat or document that does not meet accepted professional standards, whether prepared by the surveyor or by others.
6. Surveyors will promptly disclose to their clients or employer any interest they have in any project or proposal that may in any way be in conflict with that of the client or employer.

B. Compensation – The skill, technical training, broad experience and diligence required in the performance of the surveyor's professional service together with

the risk of liability, entitles the surveyor to commensurate remuneration. The client has a right to an estimate of the cost to the client of the surveyor's professional services.

1. Surveyors will perform no services on a contingency basis.
2. Surveyors may solicit a surveying assignment either verbally or in writing. The written proposal should factually state the surveyor's qualifications and may refer to past accomplishments and clients. It should detail the intended work in scope and time and the estimated fee if requested.
3. Surveyors will not accept any discount, commission or remuneration in fees, goods or services, either from the client or any other interested party, other than for stated professional services rendered to the client.
4. Surveyors may avail themselves of any legal means, including liens and lawsuits, to enforce collection of their rightful fees, should they not be tendered according to the agreed schedule.
5. Surveyors will promptly communicate with and advise their clients of potential problems that may affect the fee.

### **III. Other Land Surveyors and Employees**

A. Cooperation- It is a mutual responsibility among surveyors to protect their fellow professionals from misrepresentation. Likewise it is necessary for surveyors to promptly present evidence of unethical, illegal or incompetent actions by other surveyors to the proper authority. Surveyors should also encourage the professional development of surveyors in their employ.

1. Surveyors will not make derogatory statements about another surveyor or their work.
2. Surveyors will insist that credit for professional services shall be given to the proper surveyor and will not sign or seal any document which purports to be their work unless actually prepared under their direct supervision.
3. Surveyors will actively encourage their employees' efforts to further their education and experience and urge them to become registered when they qualify.

B. Competition – Surveyors should be selected on the basis of their high qualifications for the particular project and for their specific integrity. Surveyors

should not use any special advantage to compete unfairly with another surveyor.

1. Surveyors will establish no fee based upon another's estimate or proposal for the same work. Negotiating a price with a client is ethical, as long as the negotiated proposal is not based on proprietary information from another surveyor's or firm's proposal. It is better to recommend Quality Based Selection (QBS).

2. Surveyors will only accept part-time survey work, while in a salaried position, with the full knowledge and consent of their employer, and with the client or clients being fully informed of the employer-employee relationship.