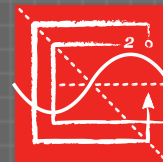


Ethics—Standard of Professional Behavior Required to Ensure the Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

NCEES Past President W. Gene Corley,
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NCEES
*advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors*

Licensure: setting the standard

- A license acts as a public guarantee that an individual has met the required standards.
- The licensure system prevents incompetent or unethical persons from practicing.



Licensure: Blacks Law— dictionary definition

A revocable permission to commit some act that would otherwise be unlawful.

State law and engineering practice

- Only a P.E. can practice engineering.
- Most states have licensure exemptions.

State law and engineering practice

- What does “practice” include?
 - Owning a firm
 - Consulting
 - Signing/sealing a design
 - Bidding for public works projects
 - Advertising services to the public
 - Calling yourself a professional engineer

Privileges and responsibilities of licensure

- P.E.s have additional career opportunities.
- P.E.s have an obligation to protect the public.

Responsibilities of licensure

- Rules of Professional Conduct outline P.E.'s obligations to
 - Society
 - Employers and clients
 - Other licensees
- NCEES includes these in its *Model Rules*.
- Individual states have similar rules

P.E.'s obligations to society

- Protect the public
 - Licensees, in the performance of their services for clients, employers, and customers, shall be cognizant that their first and foremost responsibility is to the public welfare.

P.E.'s obligations to society

- Protect the public
 - Licensees shall approve and seal only those design documents that conform to accepted engineering standards and safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public.

P.E.'s obligations to society

- Protect the public
 - Licensees shall notify their employer or client and such other authority as may be appropriate when their professional judgment is overruled under circumstances where the life, health, property, or welfare of the public is endangered.

P.E.'s obligations to society

- Be objective and truthful
 - Licensees shall be objective and truthful in professional reports, statements, or testimony. They shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or testimony.

P.E.'s obligations to society

- Be objective and truthful
 - Licensees shall express a professional opinion publicly only when it is founded upon an adequate knowledge of the facts and a competent evaluation of the subject matter.

P.E.'s obligations to society

- Disclose relationships
 - Licensees shall issue no statements, criticisms, or arguments on technical matters which are inspired or paid for by interested parties, unless they explicitly identify the interested parties on whose behalf they are speaking and reveal any interest they have in the matters.

P.E.'s obligations to society

- Uphold ethical practice
 - Licensees shall not permit the use of their name or firm name by, nor associate in the business ventures with, any person or firm which is engaging in fraudulent or dishonest business or professional practices.

P.E.'s obligations to society

- Uphold ethical practice
 - Licensees having knowledge of possible violations of any of these Rules of Professional Conduct shall provide the board with the information and assistance necessary to make the final determination of such violation.

P.E.'s obligations to employers and clients

- Stick to areas of competency
 - Licensees shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields of engineering involved.



P.E.'s obligations to employers and clients

- Only seal plans, documents under your direct supervision and control
 - Licensees shall not affix their signatures or seals to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any such plan or document not prepared under their responsible charge.

P.E.'s obligations to employers and clients

- Only seal plans, documents under your direct supervision and control
 - Licensees may accept assignments for coordination of an entire project, provided that each design segment is signed and sealed by the licensee responsible for preparation of that design segment.

P.E.'s obligations to employers and clients

- Avoid conflicts of interest—and appearance of conflicts
 - Licensees shall make full prior disclosures to their employers or clients of potential conflicts of interest or other circumstances which could influence or appear to influence their judgment or the quality of their service.

P.E.'s obligations to other licensees

- Honestly describe qualifications, experience
 - Licensees shall not falsify or permit misrepresentation of their, or their associates', academic or professional qualifications. They shall not misrepresent or exaggerate their degree of responsibility in prior assignments nor the complexity of said assignments. Presentations incident to the solicitation of employment or business shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint ventures, or past accomplishments.

P.E.'s obligations to other licensees

- Refuse inducements
 - Licensees shall not offer, give, solicit, or receive, either directly or indirectly, any commission, or gift, or other valuable consideration in order to secure work, and shall not make any political contribution with the intent to influence the award of a contract by public authority.

P.E.'s obligations to other licensees

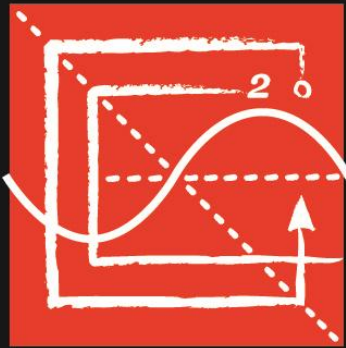
- Respect the reputation of others
 - Licensees shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other licensees, nor indiscriminately criticize other licensees' work.

Rules of professional conduct

- P.E.s who violate rules are subject to disciplinary action by their state licensing boards, including
 - Fines, reprimands, or probation
 - Suspension or revocation of license
- P.E.s must continue to practice engineering in a way that protects the public.

P.E. license = competence + accountability

- P.E.s demonstrate technical competence during the licensure process.
- P.E.s are bound by state regulations to take responsibility for their actions.
- Licensure system is instrumental in protecting the American public from incompetent or unethical practice.



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