



# IAFCI Code of Ethics

## Purpose

This Code of Ethics is intended to establish moral and professional obligations for the inspector or other membership categories of the International Association of Fireplace and Chimney Inspectors.

These obligations apply to all activities by the member that relate or affect chimneys, vents, fireplaces, hearth appliances, ventilation systems, indoor air quality, building and systems performance.

This Code of Ethics is not intended to create a new civil cause of action. Nothing in this Code of Ethics shall be deemed to create, augment, diminish, or eliminate any substantive legal duty of the member or the non-disciplinary consequences of violating such as duty.

Each member agrees to maintain a high standard of professionalism, independence, integrity, and fairness in all actions while in the performance of an inspection or any activities relating to this association.

## General Duties

Members of the IAFCI are charged with the following duties and obligations:

1. Deal with the public in a professional manner without misrepresentation, conflict or bias.
2. Use discretion in the conduct of business and disclosure of information.
3. Advertise, promote, and conduct business activities in a manner that reflects professionalism, independence, integrity and fairness.

4. Refrain from making derogatory comments concerning the professional opinion of persons in the same or related fields.
5. Assist the public in recognizing and understanding the need for a qualified inspection regardless of the company or Inspector selected to perform the inspection.
6. Foster a competitive market and refrain from activities in conflict with the public interest.
7. Act in the interest of the client and the profession to maintain and increase their level of knowledge regarding new developments in the field.
8. Maintain independence from outside influence and interest, which would compromise the ability to render a fair and impartial opinion on any inspection performed.
9. Disclose to the Client or their representative any real or potential conflict of interest as soon as the inspector becomes aware of such conflict.
10. Cooperate with other IAFCI members to ensure the continued promotion of the high standards of the IAFCI.
11. Pledge to the continued pursuit of increased competence, fairness, education, and knowledge necessary to maintain the confidence of the public and profession.
12. Refrain from representation as an expert or specialist unless specifically qualified and/or licensed as such.
13. Refrain from representation as a member of the International Association of Fireplace and Chimney Inspectors unless currently a member in good standing.
14. Promptly and confidentially report in writing to the IAFCI Board of Directors evidence of another member engaging in unethical practices or other violations of this Code of Ethics.

15. This report shall cite the specific applicable section(s) of this Code of Ethics, which have been allegedly violated. The findings of the Board of Directors shall be final and binding on the affected parties. The Board of Directors shall not include the individual filing the report nor any local competitor of the member in question. The member in question will be given fifteen (15) days to respond. All decisions shall be based on the merit of the evidence and dispute provided.

## **I. Good Faith**

1. Inspectors and members of the association shall act in good faith towards clients.
2. Services, consultations, inspections shall be based upon an honest conviction in the applicable codes, standards, listings, and remain within their training, education, experience and credentials.
3. Members shall be objective in reporting and not knowingly overstate, understate, misstate or omit the significance of reported conditions.
4. Inspectors and members shall not disclose inspection results or confidential information to anyone other than the client unless expressly authorized by the client.

## **II. Activities**

1. The Inspectors and members shall avoid activities that put the public at risk of hazard, discredit themselves or reduce public confidence in the profession and industry.
2. Inspectors and members shall maintain professional relationships with clients, colleagues, and others associated with their inspections or activities without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability.
3. The inspector or member's advertising, marketing, promotion of services or qualifications or the dissemination of information to the public shall not be fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading.

4. Inspectors and members shall abide by the IAFCI bylaws, policies and procedures as laid down by the Board of Directors.
5. The use of the IAFCI logo or other materials shall be controlled by the Board of Directors.
6. Inspectors and members shall respond professionally to their client or the IAFCI regarding complaints or concerns about an inspection or situation.
7. Inspectors shall report substantial and willful violations of this Code to the IAFCI Board of Directors.

### **III. Disclosure**

1. The inspector or member shall make full disclosure to all clients regarding their interest in any case.
2. If the inspector or member stands to receive other work or compensation as a direct result of the inspection or if they are connected with, have a relationship with or exert influence for another party who stands to gain from the inspector's report, this must be disclosed to the client upon the initiation of the relationship.
3. The inspector shall not engage in inspections where they stand to receive compensation, tips, gratuities or other gains from third parties who may stand to gain from the inspector's findings. The inspector shall disclose any relationships he has with the principles in any case or any ties he has to the subject property.

### **IV. Violations and Breaches**

1. Inappropriate language or behavior towards the IAFCI Board of Directors, Staff or to clients.
2. Improper or unauthorized use of logo or claimed representation of IAFCI.
3. Member claiming false credentials.

4. Member engaging in activities not disclosed to the client.
5. Member guilty of false or misleading advertising or public deceit:

## **V. Enforcement**

The consequences for violations or breaches of this code are as follows:

1. For minor offenses as determined by the IAFCI Board of Directors, a written reprimand is placed in the member's file. The Board may require a letter from the member admitting fault and/or offering an apology.
2. For serious offenses, the Board of Directors may elect to place the member on probation for up to six months without use of any membership privileges and the punishments as indicated in Article 2.
3. Depending upon the severity and nature of the offense, the IAFCI Board may elect to terminate the membership with forfeiture of dues paid in and all privileges revoked.
4. Breaches of this Code that are not specifically covered by this section or the bylaws shall be subject to the consequences as determined by the IAFCI Board of Directors. Such consequences shall be reasonable and in light of and in comparison to those expressed herein.

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