

MISSOURI JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS for Juvenile Justice Professionals

PREAMBLE

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association is committed to professionalism in juvenile justice services, compassion in relationships with clients, and integrity in relationships with colleagues, other professionals, and the public. This Code of Ethics is established to reflect this commitment.

I. RELATIONSHIP WITH CLIENTS

The MJJA Member:

- will protect her/his client's civil and legal rights;
- will exert her/his effort in promoting the best interest and welfare of clients;
- will not discriminate against any client on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, physical, mental, or economic condition or because of her/his political, religious opinions or affiliations;
- will maintain impartiality and respect for the integrity of each member of client families;
- will stay fully informed of his/her clients in accordance with applicable statutes and rules;
- will neither seek personal information beyond that necessary to perform his/her duties nor disclose information to those not having a professional need for it;
- has an obligation to fully and objectively advise his/her client of information necessary for informed decision-making.

II. RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS

The MJJA Member:

- will not discriminate against any colleague or other professional on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, physical, mental, or economic condition, or because of her/his political or religious opinions or affiliations;
- will maintain respect for his/her fellow professionals and work in concert for the enhancement of the quality of service to clients.

III. RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PUBLIC AND VICTIMS

The MJJA Member:

- will exert his/her best effort to protect the public from delinquent activity;
- will respect a victim's rights under the law;
- when making public statements, will clearly distinguish between personal views and statements made on behalf of his/her employer.

IV. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The MJJA Member:

- will exercise independent professional judgment and not allow family, social, or other relationships to influence professional conduct or judgment or create the appearance of influence;
- will never use her/his official position for professional gain nor will ever accept or solicit anything of value from clients including gifts, loans, privileges, or advantages;
- will not use his/her position for partisan political purposes;
- will present himself/herself in a professional manner in dress, conduct, and speech;
- will represent clients competently by maintaining education, training, and keeping abreast of current trends and developments;
- will diligently safeguard that all of his/her reports concerning clients, colleagues and others are timely, relevant and accurate;
- will not make nor purport competency to make judgments beyond those for which he/she is professionally qualified.

President, MJJA

Executive Director, MJJA

MJJA Member