



AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL ETHICS

Under the Texas Medical Association Constitution, all members "shall subscribe to the Principles of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association" hence, the Board of Councilors looks to these Principles as guidance in the rendering of its opinions.

Preamble:

The medical profession has long subscribed to a body of ethical statements developed primarily for the benefit of the patient. As a member of this profession, a physician must recognize responsibility to patients first and foremost, as well as society, to other health professionals, and to self. The following Principles adopted by the American Medical Association are not laws, but standards of conduct which define the essentials of honorable behavior for the physician.

- I. A physician shall be dedicated to providing competent medical service with compassion and respect for human dignity and rights.
- II. A physician shall uphold the standards of professionalism, be honest in all professional interactions, and strive to report physicians deficient in character and competence, or engaging in fraud or deception, to appropriate entities.
- III. A physician shall respect the law and also recognize a responsibility to seek changes in those requirements which are contrary to the best interests of the patient.
- IV. A physician shall respect the rights of patients, colleagues, and of other health professionals, and shall safeguard patient confidences and privacy within the constraints of the law.
- V. A physician shall continue to study, apply and advance scientific knowledge, maintain a commitment to medical education, make relevant information available to patients, colleagues, and the public, obtain consultation, and use the talents of other health professionals when indicated.
- VI. A physician shall, in the provision of appropriate patient care, except in emergencies, be free to choose whom to serve, with whom to associate, and the environment in which to provide medical services.
- VII. A physician shall recognize a responsibility to participate in activities contributing to an improved community and the betterment of public health.
- VIII. A physician shall, while caring for a patient, regard responsibility to the patient as paramount.
- IX. A physician shall support access to medical care for all people.

Code of Ethics

I hereby apply for membership in the _____ County Medical Society and Texas Medical Association and, if accepted, agree to abide by and be subject to terms and conditions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society and of the Texas Medical Association and the Principles of the Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association.

In consideration of the _____ County Medical Society processing my application for membership I grant permission and consent for you to obtain from any appropriate source all relevant information concerning my credentials and qualifications.

I further authorize disclosure of information generally considered to be reliable which has a bearing on my professional competence, character, and ethical qualifications to all hospitals, medical discipline boards, and medical licensure boards which request such information.

I hereby release, and hold harmless from liability or loss, the _____ County Medical Society, and the Texas Medical Association, their officers, agents, employees, and members for acts performed in good faith and without malice in connection with evaluating my application and my credentials and qualifications, and hereby release from any liability any and all individuals and organizations, who, in good faith and without malice, provide information to the above named organizations, or to their authorized representatives, concerning my professional competence, ethical conduct, character and other qualifications for membership.

I understand that if my application for membership is denied by the Board of Censors, I have a right to appeal the denial to the county medical society pursuant to the Hearings Procedure Manual. I also understand that if my application for membership is denied, based on professional competence or conduct, the county medical society must report such a professional review action to the National Practitioner Data Bank through the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners within 15 days of the date that all due process rights have been exhausted.

I also agree that biographical information will be disseminated in accordance with the policy and procedures established by the TMA Council on Communication unless otherwise directed by me.

Signed _____ Date _____

Medical Student Elected/Rejected _____, 20_____

County Medical Society Official