

Schedule C Code of Ethics

Introduction

The Code of Ethics recognizes that membership to practice Agrology is a privilege and that agrologists have responsibilities to the general public, to their clients and employers, to courts and tribunals, and to the profession.

All members must exercise integrity, competence and objectivity in their professional conduct at all times, while fulfilling their professional responsibilities as set out below.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- 1. In discharging their responsibilities to the public, members must:**
 - (a) practice within the scope of the profession, in accordance with all relevant legislation, regulations, bylaws, standards of practice and policies relevant to the practice of agrology;
 - (b) maintain stewardship of sound scientific principles in the practice of agrology;
 - (c) provide service in areas of their professional competence, and practice within the limits of their training, ability, and experience;
 - (d) provide accurate information regarding their qualifications and experience;
 - (e) ensure that they have adequate understanding of the situation and context in which an opinion has been requested;
 - (f) ensure that they distinguish between facts, assumptions and opinions in the preparation of reports or other materials;
 - (g) ensure that they clearly state that a report or other materials constitutes an opinion and identifies the limitations within which the opinion is provided;
 - (h) make referrals to or seek advice and/or assistance from other members of the profession or other professionals in situations which require expertise that is beyond their knowledge and skills; and
 - (i) regularly conduct self-assessments of their practice and actively participate in professional development and technical upgrading to maintain currency and competence.

2. In discharging their responsibilities to the client and employer, members must:

- (a) act conscientiously and diligently in providing professional services;
- (b) accept professional responsibility for any plans, reports and other documents which they have signed and/or to which they have applied their seals;
- (c) report any error or omission in their work to their client and/or employer and immediately take action to remedy such error or omission;
- (d) maintain the confidentiality of all information concerning the business and affairs of the client and/or employer acquired in the course of the professional relationship, and must not divulge any such information unless disclosure is expressly authorized by the client or employer or is required by law or by a court;
- (e) not use any confidential information respecting a client and/or employer outside the professional relationship or for the benefit of the member or another person, or to the disadvantage of the client or employer;
- (f) decline any retainers, employment or assignments that would give rise to a conflict of interest;
- (g) disclose an actual or apprehended conflict of interest to any affected client or employer as soon as reasonably possible; and
- (h) not accept remuneration or compensation from more than one client or employer for the same work without the consent of all affected clients and employers.

3. In discharging their responsibilities as expert witnesses before courts and tribunals, members must:

- (a) ensure that the opinion that they are providing is within the scope of their expertise;
- (b) ensure that they have an adequate understanding of the situation and context in which the opinion has been requested;
- (c) ensure that they distinguish between facts, assumptions and opinions in the preparation of their expert reports;
- (d) ensure that they clearly state that their expert report constitutes an opinion and identifies the limitations within which the opinion is provided; and

- (e) ensure that they provide an objective expert opinion and not an opinion that advocates for their client or employer or a particular partisan position.

4. In discharging their responsibilities to the profession, members must:

- (a) not engage in dishonourable or questionable conduct, in professional practice, extra-professional activities or private life, that casts doubt on the agrologist's professional integrity or competence, or reflects adversely on the integrity of the profession of agrology;
- (b) report to the Registrar where they have reasonable grounds to believe that another member may have engaged in professional misconduct or unprofessional conduct;
- (c) abstain from making unwarranted, undignified and misrepresentative statements in public about other members, the institute, or members of other professional bodies;
- (d) ensure that their communications with other members and other professionals is characterized by respect, courtesy, honesty and good faith; and
- (e) ensure that they acknowledge the contributions of other members and other professionals when directly using their work in whole or in part.