

Code of Ethics and Professional Standards

Policy Statement:

This code, comprising Ten Principles, is sponsored by the Governing Council of the Association of British Investigators (ABI). It is a reflection of the way in which all members of The Association should conduct their business according to rigorous ethical, fair, professional and legal standards.

It flows from our determination to:

Be fair

Be transparent

Be accountable

Be honest

Be cautious

Be thorough

Be law abiding

Be mindful of the confidentiality of that with which we are entrusted

Protect and enhance the reputation of this Association and its members

Principle 1 – Responsibility and Accountability

All members of The Association of British Investigators are personally responsible and accountable for their actions or omissions, as are their employees and other persons paid to assist an investigation. It must be ensured that the latter adhere to this Code of Ethics and Professional Standards.

Principle 2 – Honesty and Integrity

All members of The Association of British Investigators are to act with honesty, integrity and must not compromise their position, that of this Association or any of their clients.

Principle 3 – Caution and Thoroughness

All members of The Association of British Investigators are to (a) verify the credentials of clients to ensure that they have lawful and moral reasons to request an investigation and (b) maintain suitable competency and resources to meet the client's managed expectations.

Principle 4 – Conflict of Interest

All members of The Association of British Investigators having a personal or conflicting interest in any matter in which they are involved shall disclose that interest, if it is in conflict with the interests of their clients.

Principle 5 – Acting within the Law

All members of The Association of British Investigators are to obey the law and refrain from carrying out any act that they know, or ought to know, is unlawful, or contrary to The Association's policy.

Principle 6 – Authority, Respect and Courtesy

No member of The Association of British Investigators is to abuse their position and must respect the rights of all individuals.

All members of The Association of British Investigators are to act with self-control and tolerance, treating everyone with whom they come into contact, during the course of their activities, with respect, fairness and courtesy.

Principle 7 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

All members will treat everyone with dignity and respect in every interaction and will not discriminate on the grounds of, nationality, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership, family circumstances, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity status, age, property, birth or other status or any other unfair distinction. In addition, the Association of British Investigators will not tolerate bullying, harassment or intimidating behaviour.

Principle 8 – Confidentiality

All members of The Association of British Investigators are to treat information with which they are entrusted during the course of business with respect and access or disclose it only for the purposes for which it is intended; attending to all instructions within the principles of the prevailing privacy legislation and in particular if controlling personal data to be so notified with the Information Commissioner.

Principle 9 – General Conduct

All members of The Association of British Investigators are to act in a professional manner.

They must not behave in a manner which brings, or is likely to bring, discredit upon The Association or any of their clients, or act in a way that undermines or is likely to undermine confidence in The Association or that of any of their clients, or breach or permit a breach of The Association's Memorandum, Articles of Association, Bye-Laws or Code of Ethics.

Principle 10 – Challenging and Reporting Improper Conduct

All members of The Association of British Investigators are expected to challenge and when appropriate take action or report breaches of this code and the improper conduct of colleagues.