



## Code of Ethics: Statement of Principles and Rules

The Code of Ethics of the American Board of Audiology specifies professional standards that provide for the proper discharge of audiologists' responsibilities to those served and protects the integrity of the profession. Certificants who are certified by the ABA agree to abide by the following principles and rules:

**PRINCIPLE 1:** Certificants shall provide professional services with honesty and compassion, and shall respect the dignity, worth, and rights of those served.

**Rule 1a:** Certificants shall not limit the delivery of professional services on any basis that is unjustifiable or irrelevant to the need for the potential benefit from such services.

**Rule 1b:** Certificants shall not provide services except in a professional relationship, and shall not discriminate in the provision of services to individuals on the basis of culture, sex, race, religion, national origin, sex/gender, sexual orientation, or general health and/or disability.

**PRINCIPLE 2:** Certificants shall maintain high standards of professional competence in rendering services.

**Rule 2a:** Certificants shall provide only those professional services for which they are qualified by education and experience.

**Rule 2b:** Certificants shall use available resources, including referrals to other specialists, and shall not accept benefits or items of value for receiving or making referrals.

**Rule 2c:** Certificants shall exercise all reasonable precautions to avoid injury to persons in the delivery of professional services or execution of research, whether in-person or via distance (e.g., telehealth) methods.

**Rule 2d:** Certificants shall provide appropriate supervision and assume full responsibility for services delegated to support personnel. Certificants shall not delegate any audiology service requiring professional competence to unqualified persons.

**Rule 2e:** Certificants shall not knowingly permit personnel under their direct or indirect supervision to engage in any practice that is not in compliance with the Code of Ethics.

**Rule 2f:** Certificants shall maintain professional competence through relevant continuing education.

**PRINCIPLE 3:** Certificants shall comply with jurisdictional privacy guidelines (e.g., HIPAA, FERPA) to maintain the confidentiality of the information and records of those receiving services or involved in research. Compliance is also required in non-formal settings including, but not limited to, social media accounts and social media groups.

**Rule 3a:** Certificants shall not reveal to unauthorized persons any professional or personal information obtained from the person served professionally, unless authorized by law.

**PRINCIPLE 4:** Certificants shall provide only services and products that are in the best interest of those served.

**Rule 4a:** Certificants shall not exploit persons in the delivery of professional services.

**Rule 4b:** Certificants shall not charge for services not rendered.

**Rule 4c:** Certificants shall not participate in activities that constitute a conflict of professional interest.

**Rule 4d:** Certificants shall not conduct research with human subjects without obtaining fully informed consent from the participants or their legal representatives.

**Rule 4e:** Certificants conducting research with human or animal participants shall follow accepted National Institutes of Health (NIH) or equivalent research guidelines.

**PRINCIPLE 5:** Certificants shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of communicative disorders and about the services and products offered, as well as the benefits and risks associated with research.

**Rule 5a:** Certificants shall provide persons served with the information a reasonable person would want to know about the nature and possible effects of services rendered, or products (including, but not limited to, prescriptive or over-the-counter) provided or research being conducted.



**Rule 5b:** Certificants may make a statement of prognosis, but shall not guarantee results, mislead, or misinform persons served or studied.

**Rule 5c:** Certificants shall conduct and report product-related research only according to accepted standards or research practice.

**Rule 5d:** Certificants shall not carry out teaching or research activities in a manner that constitutes an invasion of privacy or that fails to inform persons fully about the nature and possible effects of these activities. This affords all informed persons free choice to accept or decline participation.

**Rule 5e:** Certificants shall maintain accurate documentation of all professional services rendered according to accepted medical, legal and professional standards and requirements.

**PRINCIPLE 6:** Certificants shall comply with the ethical standards of the ABA with regard to public statements and publication, including, but not limited to, in print, online and social media.

**Rule 6a:** Certificants shall not misrepresent their own educational degrees, training, credentials, or competence or those of support personnel. Only degrees earned from regionally accredited institutions in which training was obtained in audiology, or a directly related discipline, may be used in public statements concerning professional services.

**Rule 6b:** Certificants' public statements about professional services, products (including, but not limited to, prescriptive or over-the-counter) or research results shall not contain representations or claims that are false, misleading, or deceptive.

**PRINCIPLE 7:** Certificants shall honor their responsibilities to the public and to professional colleagues.

**Rule 7a:** Certificants shall not use professional or commercial affiliations in any way that would limit services to or mislead patients or colleagues.

**Rule 7b:** Certificants shall inform colleagues and the public in an objective manner consistent with professional standards about products and services they have developed or research they have conducted.

**PRINCIPLE 8:** Certificants shall uphold the dignity of the profession and freely accept the ABA's self-imposed standards.

**Rule 8a:** Certificants shall not violate these Principles and Rules nor attempt to circumvent them.

**Rule 8b:** Certificants shall not engage in dishonesty or illegal conduct that adversely reflects on the profession.

**Rule 8c:** Certificants shall inform the ABA when there are reasons to believe that an ABA certificant may have violated the Code of Ethics.

**Rule 8d:** Certificants shall inform the ABA when their state licensure and/or other professional memberships have been revoked or suspended due to a disciplinary action.

**Rule 8e:** Certificants shall fully cooperate with reviews being conducted by the ABA in any matter related to the Code of Ethics.