

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CORONERS & MEDICAL EXAMINERS**  
**CODE OF ETHICS**

**PREAMBLE**

**The Member of the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners (IAC&ME), as an elected or appointed official of the jurisdiction for which he/she serves, holds a position of trust with the people of that jurisdiction. In order that they might maintain confidence in that office this code is proposed as a guideline to which a Member of the IAC&ME should adhere.**

1. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall perform his/her duties without fear, prejudice or partiality towards any person or institution.
2. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall respect the religious views of the deceased and his/her family in regard to autopsy examination unless that examination is necessary to prove or disprove criminal negligence on the part of an individual or institution, within the bounds of the law or regulations.
3. The **Member of the IAC&ME**, in the delegation of his/her investigative powers to another individual as his/her deputy, shall insure that the individual so authorized is knowledgeable of the laws concerning the Coroner/Medical Examiner Office and of this Code of Ethics.
4. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall proceed in the public interest to carry out diligently and as rapidly as possible the duties and responsibilities as required by law.
5. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall have regard for the fact that he/she is performing a public duty and that his/her actions and decisions affect the public interest as well as the interest of private individuals.
6. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall accept his/her share of responsibility towards society in relation to matters of public health, health and safety education and legislation affecting the health and well-being of the community.
7. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall not, in the discharge of his/her duties; make decisions beyond the scope of his/her personal expertise and knowledge but shall seek guidance from the appropriate source or sources.
8. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall assist law enforcement agencies, prosecution or defense and all officials involved in the administration of justice in the discharge of their duties within the bounds set by the laws affecting the Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office.

9. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall not interfere in an investigation or inquest which has been undertaken by a Coroner/Medical Examiner in another jurisdiction and will not initiate an investigation or inquest in another jurisdiction unless directed to do so by appropriate authority.
10. A **Member of the IAC&ME** shall disqualify himself/herself from acting at an investigation or inquest where any actual conflict of interest appears to exist.
11. The **Member of the IAC&ME**, presiding at an inquest, shall exercise his/her duties and responsibilities so as to assist the jury to return a fair, impartial and proper verdict based on the evidence.
12. When presiding at an inquest the **Member of the IAC&ME** shall instruct the jury and receive the jury's verdict with impartiality.
13. A **Member of the IAC&ME** shall bear in mind that an inquest is designed to determine and make public the facts surrounding a particular death and that an inquest may be opened to the public as defined by the jurisdiction's Laws or Statutes.
14. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall not conduct himself/herself in a manner which might tend to bring his/her office into disrepute or affect public confidence in that office.
15. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall not act in a manner designed to or having the effect of publicizing or enhancing his/her medical practice, funeral establishment or other personal occupational endeavor within the community.
16. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall strive to increase in knowledge of matters pertinent to the proper and effective performance of his/her duties and where the possible shall attend educational training programs conducted by the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners, Law Enforcement Agencies and other groups, as continuing education may require.
17. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall avoid making any comments concerning morality of the conduct of person concerned in an investigation.
18. A **Member of the IAC&ME** shall respect the confidentiality of any information received by him/her in the performance of his/her duties.
19. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall not release the names of the deceased individuals until such times as the families of the deceased have been notified or if such efforts have failed and the release is made as a last resort to locate Next of Kin.
20. The **Member of the IAC&ME** shall assure the family of the deceased free choice of funeral establishment or other means of disposition of the remains.

21. All ***Members of the IAC&ME*** shall refrain from serving as the Personal Representative of a decedent's estate of which he/she has jurisdiction as the Coroner/Medical Examiner or Representative.

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