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## ADA Code of Ethics (1924)

American Dental Association

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American Dental Association  
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Charter,  
Constitutional and Admin-  
istrative By-Laws  
and  
Code of Ethics  
of the  
American Dental  
Association  
1924

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place when necessary. (c) Each secretary shall keep the records of the section in a book provided for such purpose; shall, with the cooperation of the chairman, conduct all correspondence necessary to secure papers and perfect the program for his section; and he shall forward to the general secretary, at least forty days prior to the date of the annual session, a copy of his section program for insertion in the official program, and shall perform all other duties pertaining to the office of secretary.

Sec. 5.—Executive Committee.—Each section shall have an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the last three retired chairmen. In the absence of a member of this committee the acting chairman shall sit in his stead. At the first organization of each section, in 1913, an Executive Committee of three shall be elected, one to serve for one year, one for two years and one for three years, by which time the Executive Committee will be constituted as above provided. The executive Committee shall examine and pass on all papers read before the section, and shall indorse for publication only those that are of scientific or of practical value; it shall also examine all papers offered to the section, prior to the reading thereof and shall, except in the case of the state society officers' section, choose the one to be read before the general meeting devoted to the work of its particular section, and such paper shall not be read before the section meeting.

Sec. 6.—Honorary and Associate Members.—Each section, at its opening meeting, may make nominations for honorary and for associate members, in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 of Chapter 1. The secretary shall immediately notify the general secretary of such nominations.

#### CHAPTER XIV

##### Papers and Discussions

Section 1.—Titles and abstracts of papers offered to sections must be in the hands of the section secretary at least forty-five days prior to the annual session.

Sec. 2.—The time allowed for the presentation of a paper before a section shall be limited to thirty minutes, except by unanimous consent. No one shall address a section more than once on the same subject, nor for longer than five minutes, except with the consent of the majority of those present.

Sec. 3.—Each section may provide by-laws for its own government, provided they shall not conflict with the Constitutional and Administrative By-Laws of the Association.

#### CHAPTER XV

##### Publication

Section 1.—No paper shall be published as having been read before a section unless it has received the approval of the Executive Committee of said section.

Sec. 2.—Each author shall hand his manuscript to the section secretary immediately after the reading thereof, and such manuscript must be ready for publication at that time, and must be accompanied by copy for all illustrations needed. The secretary shall indorse thereon that it has been read, and shall hand it to the Executive Committee for its action. All papers approved by the Executive Committee shall be returned to the section secretary, who shall at once forward them for publication to the editor of The Journal.

Sec. 3.—No paper shall be published as having been read before a section unless it has actually been read, or unless, for special reasons, when the author has been present and prepared to read the paper, the section shall vote to have it read by title.

Sec. 4.—All papers and reports presented to a section, and approved by the Executive Committee, shall become the exclusive property of the Association; but the

Board of Trustees may permit an author to publish his paper elsewhere than in The Journal of the American Dental Association.

Sec. 5.—Official Resolutions Approved by the House of Delegates.—No memorial, resolution or opinion of any character whatsoever shall be issued in the name of the American Dental Association, unless it shall have been approved by the House of Delegates.

#### CHAPTER XVI—AMENDMENTS

##### Articles of Incorporation

Section 1.—The House of Delegates at any annual session, wherever the same may be held, may instruct the Board of Trustees to make any changes in the articles of incorporation in accordance with the law, which may appear desirable or which may be made necessary, by any change or amendment to the Constitutional and Administrative By-Laws of this Association.

Sec. 2.—These Administrative By-Laws may be amended on a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates, provided that no amendment shall be acted on till the day following that on which it is introduced, except that the Board of Trustees may by unanimous vote make such changes, and such changes only, as may be required to adapt them to the rules and regulations of the United States postal authorities.

#### STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions presented to the House of Delegates carrying an appropriation shall be referred to the Board of Trustees without debate, to be again reported to the House by the Board of Trustees at the same or the next session.

#### LOCAL COMMITTEE'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Any unexpended balance remaining in the hands of the local committee on arrangements after the annual meeting shall be turned over to the secretary of the American Dental Association.

#### CODE OF ETHICS

Section 1.—In his dealings with patients and with the profession, the conduct of the dentist should be in accordance with the Golden Rule, both in its letter and in its spirit.

Sec. 2.—It is unprofessional for a dentist to advertise by handbills, posters, circulars, cards, signs, or in newspapers or other publications, calling attention to special methods of practice or claiming excellence over other practitioners, or to use display advertisements of any kind. It is also unprofessional to publish reports of cases on certificates in the public prints. This does not exclude a practitioner from using professional cards of suitable size with name, titles, address and telephone number, printed in modest type, nor having the same character of card in a newspaper. Neither does it prevent a practitioner who confines himself to a specialty from merely announcing his specialty on his professional card.

Sec. 3.—It is unprofessional for dentists to pay or accept commissions on fees for professional services, or for radio-grams, or on prescriptions or other articles supplied to patients by pharmacists or others.

Sec. 4.—One dentist should not disparage the services of another to a patient. Criticism of operations which are apparently defective may be unjust through lack of knowledge of the conditions under which they were performed.

But the welfare of the patient is paramount to every other consideration, and should be conserved to the utmost of the practitioner's ability. If he finds indisputable evidence that a patient is suffering from previous faulty treatment, it is his duty to institute correct treatment at once, doing it with as little comment as possible and in such a manner as to avoid reflection on his predecessor.

Sec. 5.—If a dentist is consulted in an emergency by the patient of another practitioner who is temporarily absent from his office, or by a patient who is away from home, the duty of the dentist so consulted is to relieve the patient of any immediate disability by temporary service only, and then refer the patient back to the regular dentist.

Sec. 6.—When a dentist is called in consultation by a fellow practitioner, he should hold the discussions in the consultation as confidential, and under no circumstances should he accept charge of the case without the request of the dentist who has been attending it.

Sec. 7.—The dentist should be morally, mentally and physically clean. He should be honest in all his dealings with his fellow man, as comports with the honor and dignity of a cultured and professional gentleman.