

Spotlight on the Code of Ethics

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Standard Number Seven: “Members shall act with dignity, courtesy and respect for the individual in all dealings with society.”

Before discussing the meaning of this standard, I think it is important to understand the purpose of the Code. This Code is to serve as a guide to assist us as Healthcare Leaders in attaining a high level of competent and ethical conduct in the practice of our chosen profession of medical administration. By accepting membership in the American Academy of Medical Administrators all of us have made a commitment to live and work by this Code.

First it is important that we have an understanding of the key words in this standard.

MEMBER

- An element or part of a whole
- One who belongs to a group or organization

DIGNITY

- The condition of being worthy or honorable
- A high office or rank
- Nobility of character or language

COURTESY

- Polite behavior, gracious manner or manners
- A polite gesture or remark

RESPECT

- Esteem
- Deferential or high regard
- Expressions of consideration or deference

INDIVIDUAL

- Relating to a single human being
- By or for one person
- Existing as a distinct entity -- separate
- Distinguished by particular attributes

SOCIETY

- Human beings in general
- A group of people with a common culture or way of life
- A group of people who unite to share a common interest

We have come together as a group of single persons and formed an organization, the AAMA. By being a part of this organization we have earned the right to be called a member. As a member we have agreed that we will treat each other as being worthy or honorable. We will treat each other in a gracious manner, and we will be polite in our behavior. We further agree that we will have a high regard for each other and show expressions of consideration for each other.

What ties this together is the word “society.” As members of the AAMA we are a group of people with a common culture and way of life who share common interests and goals.

So what does this really mean? To me it means that as individuals we have chosen to help our fellow human beings relieve the medical pain and suffering in their lives. Some of us have chosen to do this by becoming physicians, nurses, or other clinical professionals. Others have chosen to do this through the practice of the art of medical administration. Medical Administrators provide for the buildings, equipment, supplies and the dollars to enable our clinical partners to practice the art of medicine.

It, therefore, means that in all of our actions we will treat each other with the highest degree of respect and dignity. We will always be above board and honest in all of our actions whether they are personal or business. I believe that the “Four-way Test” of Rotary International helps to sum it all up.

OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP?
- Will it be BENEFEICIAL to all concerned