

CODE OF ETHICS OF NEW YORK STATE AUCTIONEERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The New York State Auctioneers Association, Inc., is an Association of individual auctioneers who have been admitted to membership in the Association after meeting the qualifications for such membership by the membership committee and the Board of Directors.

The necessity for a set of authoritative principles and a code of professional ethics, broad enough to cover all the complexities of the auction procedure, is a pressing one. To meet the need for a comprehensive set of guideposts and a specific code of ethics, there has been prepared the principles for a Code of Ethics. The principles and code are promulgated to: 1. Inform those who use the services of members as to what constitutes competent and ethical practice; 2. To serve as guide to its own members in achieving competency in auctioneering in adhering to ethical standards; 3. To aid in the accomplishment of the purposes of the association which includes the keeping of the members abreast of all current legislation and auction trends. To provide examination of applicants for admission to the Association, to judge their skills, competence, and their understanding of ethical principles. To epitomize those practices that experience has found to be effective in protecting the public.

Because the auction profession is a pursuit requiring extensive knowledge and experience, the Association accepts as its responsibility the duty to continually review and maintain high standards for its membership.

The members of the Association shall:

1. Conduct their business in a competent professional manner, insuring that both themselves and their personnel are knowledgeable in the particular area of auctioneering in which they participate and act in compliance with sound industry practice.
2. Make every reasonable effort to assure advertising and other business practices are not misleading to the public, nor shall such advertising or other business practice contain any misrepresentation of facts.
3. Keep themselves informed with respect to all applicable laws and regulations, and comply therewith.
4. Cooperate in every appropriate way with governmental bodies charge with regulating the practice of auctioneers, assuring the public of fair and honest treatment with respect to the auction profession.
5. Conduct themselves with dignity and integrity in their dealings with the public, and recognize and respect the confidentiality of their clients.
6. Attempt to reduce all agreements to writing and provide copies to all parties engaged. When agreements are not in writing, members shall accord all oral agreements the same sanctity given to written agreements.
7. Conduct their business so as not to deny equal professional services to any person for reasons of race, color, creed, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age or disability.
8. Take all steps to avoid conflicts of interest with their clients, and if a conflict of interest comes to the attention of a member, to promptly disclose such conflict to all parties.
9. Not to engage in activities that constitute the unauthorized practice of law, and shall recommend that legal counsel be obtained when in their best and honest judgement the interest of any party to a transaction requires legal representation.
10. Cooperate in all respects in the event a complaint is made to the Association, and place all pertinent facts and information relative to such complaint before the Association's duly appointed hearing Board if a hearing is held regarding any particular case.

Enacted 8 November 1992

