



ASSOCIATION OF STATE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

PREAMBLE

The head of every State Correctional Agency occupies a position of exceptional trust, responsibility and leadership. It is incumbent upon those chosen for these positions to be an individual of impeccable character who applies the highest levels of integrity in their operations and daily practice of the profession. The appearance of impropriety by a State Correctional Agency Head, or their subordinate staff, is not acceptable and erodes the confidence of citizens in government, public safety and the agency as a whole. Therefore, it is incumbent upon State Correctional Agency Heads to adhere to certain guidelines regarding personal and professional conduct.

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) recognizes that an agency head, be it Director, Commissioner or Cabinet Secretary, must embody the virtues of temperance, discipline, justice, wisdom, integrity, courage, compassion, and fortitude. To that end, ASCA establishes the following guidelines governing the conduct of its members.

CODE

Each member is accountable to their Governor, elected official or appointing authority, the people of their respective states or jurisdictions, the agency and the rule of law for any violations of this code.

- Members shall consistently and without fail act with integrity, recognizing their unique leadership and executive roles. Judgments concerning agency and personal conduct must be guided by rules of law, honesty, fairness, compassion and understanding.
- Members shall conduct themselves in public and in private in a manner consistent with the dignity and responsibility of their office. Conduct should always be beyond reproach and above suspicion.
- Members shall not solicit or accept gifts, things of value, inordinate consideration or any other form of personal gain as defined and regulated by their state's laws or policies, from persons or organizations doing business or seeking to do business with their agency.

- Members shall be prohibited from taking action in any agency matters that involve financial gain for a member, their family, friends or acquaintances.
- Members shall not use their official position to endorse commercial products for compensation. However, members may endorse books, publications, professional development, training or educational services provided by nonprofit membership organizations and recognized educational institutions, but without compensation.
- Members shall not participate in any conduct that reflects negatively or could in any manner bring disrepute to their agency, ASCA or the corrections profession.
- Members shall ensure that their agency does not discriminate in policy or practice based on sex, race, creed, religious affiliation, disability, sexual orientation, age or national origin.
- Members shall ensure that their agency supports, protects, and defends the Constitution and Government of the United States and their respective states.
- Members shall endeavor to support and cooperate with all levels of law enforcement, whether federal, state, or local, for the efficient and professional delivery of cooperative law enforcement and public safety services.
- Members shall not take, or allow to be taken, any action or actions by any member of their agency that would interfere with their agency's commitment to delivering the highest level of humane correctional services in their respective state.
- Members shall neither tolerate nor condone any form of corruption in their agencies, or among their employees.
- Members shall ensure that reports of official misconduct or corruption brought to their attention involving public officials or staff are properly investigated and appropriate steps taken to hold all person(s) involved accountable under the law.

The Association of State Correctional Administrators believes that each member carries the responsibility of exemplary behavior and personal accountability at all times.

**Commitment, Dedication and Leadership, Without
Compromise.**