

## ISA BOARD-CERTIFIED MASTER ARBORIST CODE OF ETHICS

The International Society of Arboriculture, Inc. (ISA) is a voluntary, nonprofit, professional association. The ISA certification program certifies qualified practitioners in the field of arboriculture, who have met the professional knowledge standards established by the ISA certification board.

Regardless of any other professional affiliation, the ISA Code of Ethics applies to those individuals seeking ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist (BCMA) certification (candidates) and all individuals certified by ISA (certificants). The ISA BCMA Code of Ethics describes appropriate and enforceable professional conduct standards and sets forth the minimal ethical standards for ISA BCMA certificants and candidates. The BCMA Code of Ethics also serves as a professional resource for arborists, as well as for those served by ISA BCMA certificants and candidates, in the case of a possible ethical violation.

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- I. Responsibility to Comply with Laws, Policies and Rules Relating to the Profession
  - A. BCMA certificant and candidate compliance with all ISA certification program rules and policies
    1. Responsibility and commitment to provide accurate and truthful representations of all eligibility information and to submit valid application materials for fulfillment of current certification and recertification requirements.
    2. Responsibility and commitment to fulfill current certification and recertification requirements, including continuing education and training requirements.
    3. Upon a reasonable and clear factual basis, responsibility and commitment to report possible violations of this code by certificants and candidates to appropriate ISA representatives.
    4. Responsibility and commitment to maintain the security, and to prevent the disclosure of, ISA examination information and materials.
    5. Responsibility and commitment to cooperate with the ISA certification program and ISA certification board concerning ethics violations and the collection of related information.
  - B. Truthful, appropriate, and respectful professional arboriculture practice
    1. Responsibility and commitment to properly use the ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist credential and to provide truthful and accurate advertising and representations.
      - a. Qualifications and skills
      - b. Goods and services
      - c. Costs
      - d. Estimates and professional recommendations regarding anticipated arboriculture services and products, including all related concerns and risks
      - e. Statements concerning other arborists

2. Responsibility and commitment to correct known false representations by other Board-Certified Master Arborists.
3. Responsibility and commitment to comply with laws, regulations, and ethical standards governing professional practice.
4. Responsibility and commitment to refrain from any public behavior that is clearly in violation of accepted moral, professional, social, and legal standards.
5. Responsibility and commitment to recognize and respect professional contributions of other arborists (e.g., employee, employers, business associates, other practicing arborists).
6. Responsibility and commitment to recognize and respect the real property and intellectual property held by others.

C. Advancement of the arboriculture profession

1. Responsibility and commitment to encourage the growth and development of professional associates as colleagues and as mentors.
2. Responsibility and commitment to mutually discuss and exchange arboriculture and professional information to other arborists.
3. Responsibility and commitment to support education, research, and professional development related to arboriculture.
4. Responsibility and commitment to act in an accurate, truthful, and complete manner, including activities related to professional work and research.
5. Responsibility and commitment to promote public awareness of the arboriculture profession.
6. Responsibility and commitment to deliver the best-quality education and awareness information or programs based on the knowledge, sophistication, and resource base of the audience.
7. Responsibility and commitment to support and disseminate this code of ethics to other professionals.
8. Responsibility and commitment to maintain professionalism in personal, environmental, and social decision-making.
9. Responsibility and commitment to act in a manner consistent with all generally accepted professional standards.

II. Responsibilities to Clients and the Public

- A. Qualifications, experience, competency, and performance of professional services
1. Responsibility and commitment to provide truthful and accurate representations to the public in advertising, public statements or representations, and in the preparation of estimates concerning costs, services, and expected results.

2. Responsibility and commitment to deliver safe and competent services in a timely manner.
  3. Responsibility and commitment to exercise unprejudiced and unbiased judgment.
  4. Responsibility and commitment to maintain and satisfy the scope or objectives of a project, unless otherwise directed by the client or customer.
  5. Responsibility and commitment to recognize the limitations of and to deliver professional services only for which the certificant or candidate is qualified.
  6. Responsibility and commitment to provide a potential or existing client with appropriate professional referrals when the certificant or candidate determines that he or she is unable to be of professional assistance.
  7. Responsibility and commitment to maintain and respect the confidentiality of sensitive information obtained in the course of the certificant's or candidate's professional activities.
- B. Conflict of interest situations and other prohibited professional conduct
1. Responsibility and commitment to disclose to clients, customers, owners, or contractors significant circumstances that could be construed as a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a significant conflict, and to ensure that such conflict does not compromise legitimate interests of such persons, or influence or interfere with professional judgments.
  2. Responsibility and commitment to refrain from offering or accepting inappropriate payments, gifts, or other forms of compensation for personal gain unless in conformity with applicable laws.
  3. Responsibility and commitment to avoid actions that may restrain research and field-demonstrated technology, its applications, and publication for monetary gain.
  4. Responsibility and commitment to avoid actions that may have anti-competitive effects, including situations where competitors attempt to set prices together.
  5. Responsibility and commitment to refrain from unlawful discrimination in professional activities.
  6. Responsibility and commitment to avoid any public and social behavior that is clearly in violation of accepted moral, professional, social, and legal standards.
- C. Public safety obligations
1. Responsibility and commitment to uphold all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards that govern the profession by following all appropriate safety and health procedures to protect clients, customers, workers, and the public from conditions easily leading to injury or damage.
  2. Responsibility and commitment to refrain from participating in or condoning activities that threaten public safety or otherwise violate the law, and to inform the appropriate government or professional body upon awareness of such violations.