

# Ohio State Chiropractic Association Members' Code of Ethics

Adopted June 8, 2006, amended January 17, 2015

## Preamble

This Code of Ethics is based upon the fundamental principle that the ultimate end and object of the chiropractic physician's professional services and effort is:

“The greatest good for the patient.”

This Code of Ethics offers guidance to the profession with respect to responsibilities to patients, the public and to fellow practitioners and for such consideration as may be given to them by state legislatures, state administrative agencies and also by state chiropractic associations to the extent that they are authorized under state law to exercise enforcement or disciplinary functions.

## A. Responsibility to the Patient

1. Doctors of chiropractic should hold themselves ready at all times to respond to the call of those needing their professional services, although they are free to accept or reject a particular patient on a case by case basis except in an emergency.
2. Doctors of chiropractic should attend to their patients as often as they consider necessary to insure the well-being of their patients.
3. Having once undertaken to serve a patient, doctors of chiropractic should not neglect the patient. Doctors of chiropractic should take reasonable steps to protect their patients prior to withdrawing their professional services. Such steps shall include due notice to the patient that allows a reasonable time for obtaining professional services of other providers and the delivering to the patient all papers and documents in compliance with Section A (5) of this Code of Ethics and applicable Ohio law.
4. Doctors of chiropractic should practice with the highest degree of professional competency and honesty in the proper care of their patients.
5. Doctors of chiropractic should comply with a patient's authorization to provide records, or copies of such records, to those whom the patient designates as authorized to inspect or receive all or part of such records. A reasonable charge may be made for the cost of duplicating records as set forth in Ohio law.
6. Subject to the foregoing Section A (5), doctors of chiropractic should preserve and protect the patient's confidences and records, except as the patient directs or consents or the law requires otherwise. A doctor of chiropractic should not discuss a patient's history, symptoms, diagnosis, or treatment with any third party until the doctor receives the written consent of the patient or the patient's personal representative as required under law. Doctors of chiropractic should only disclose Protected Health Information to other healthcare providers as current law dictates. Doctors of chiropractic should not exploit the trust and dependency of their patients.
7. Doctors of chiropractic owe loyalty, compassion and respect to their patients. Their clinical judgment and practice should be objective and exercised solely for the patient's benefit.
8. Doctors of chiropractic should recognize and respect the right of every person to free choice of chiropractors or other health care providers and of the right of the patient to exercise such choice at will.
9. Doctors of chiropractic are entitled to receive proper and reasonable compensation for their professional services commensurate with the value of the services they have rendered taking into consideration their experience, time required, reputation and the nature of the condition involved. Doctors of chiropractic should terminate a professional relationship when it becomes reasonably clear that the patient is not benefiting from it. Doctors of chiropractic should assist a patient to the extent reasonable and appropriate in those instances where the patient is unable to pay for necessary chiropractic care due to a financial hardship.

10. Doctors of chiropractic should maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct and should refrain from all illegal conduct.
11. Doctors of chiropractic should be ready to consult and seek the talents of other health care professionals when such consultation would benefit their patients or when their patients express a desire for such consultation.
12. Doctors of chiropractic should employ their best good faith efforts that the patient possesses enough information to enable an intelligent choice in regard to proposed chiropractic treatment. The patient should make his or her own determination on such treatment.
13. Doctors of chiropractic should utilize only those laboratory and X-ray procedures, and such devices or nutritional products, that are in the best interest of the patient and consistent with state law.

## **Responsibility to the Public**

1. Doctors of chiropractic should act as members of a learned profession dedicated to the promotion of health, the prevention of illness and the alleviation of suffering.
2. Doctors of chiropractic should observe and comply with all laws, decisions and regulations of state governmental agencies and cooperate with the pertinent activities and policies of associations legally authorized to regulate or assist in the regulation of the chiropractic profession.
3. Doctors of chiropractic may advertise but should exercise utmost care that such advertising is relevant to health awareness, is accurate, truthful, not misleading or false or deceptive, and scrupulously accurate in representing the chiropractor's professional status and area of special competence. Communications to the public should not create unjustified expectations of results. Doctors of chiropractic should conform to all applicable laws in connection with professional advertising.
4. Doctors of chiropractic should continually strive to improve their skill and competency by keeping abreast of current developments by participating in continuing chiropractic educational programs and utilizing other appropriate means.
5. The chiropractic profession should address itself to improvements in licensing procedures consistent with the development of the profession and of relevant advances in chiropractic.
6. Doctors of chiropractic who are elected officials of the OSCA shall not engage in activities which are, or may be reasonably perceived to be, in conflict with their official duties.
7. Doctors of chiropractic should protect the public and reputation of the chiropractic profession by bringing to the attention of the appropriate public or private organizations the actions of chiropractors who engage in deception, fraud or dishonesty, or otherwise engage in conduct inconsistent with this Code of Ethics or relevant provisions of applicable law or regulations within the state.

A member who has concerns regarding compliance, or a violation with this code should raise concerns with the President of the Board or the Executive Director.