

## Preamble

The South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) has adopted the following Code of Ethics, as proof of the commitment of SAIPA Members to:

- Develop realistic and practical solutions to client problems
- Act in the public and client's best interests at all times,
- Render impartial, factually based, independent advice,
- Accept only those client engagements that they are qualified and competent to perform,
- Conduct oneself with integrity and professionalism at all times,
- Agree with the client in advance on the basis for their professional fees,
- Safeguard confidential information,
- Act independently, objectively, transparently and with fairness.

As the professional association and certifying body for Professional Accountants (SA) in South Africa, SAIPA requires adherence to this Code of Ethics as a condition of membership and a prerequisite to certification. All members must pledge, in writing, to abide by the Institute's Code of Ethics and their voluntary adherence to this Code signifies the self-discipline of the profession.

The Code sets out the minimum ethical practice standard for the accounting profession, as aligned to the International Ethics Standard Board for Accountants (IESBA) Handbook. The purpose of this Code is to ensure that SAIPA members maintain their professionalism, integrity and excellence by adhering to high ethical standards while providing services to clients; and also, in their dealings with their colleagues and the public.

The individual professional judgement of members is required to apply these principles and members may be liable to disciplinary action under the SAIPA rules, if their conduct is found to:

- Be in violation of the Code, or
- Bring discredit to the profession or disrepute to the Institute.

The Professional Conduct Committee/s of the Institute will investigate any such complaint and, amongst other options, may sanction, suspend or terminate the membership of any member if such a member is found to be in breach of any of the provisions of the SAIPA Constitution, By Laws, Code of Conduct or the IESBA standards.

[Click here to read the SAIPA Code of Conduct](#)

As a SAIPA member, my primary objective is to serve in the public interest whilst my professional objective is to assist my clients to add value to their enterprise, whether that enterprise takes the form of a business, a not-for-profit organisation or any element of government.

I pledge to uphold and promote the SAIPA Code of Ethics in all my activities.

I will serve my clients with integrity, professional competence and due care, objectivity, independence and with professionalism.

I will only accept assignments that I am competent to perform and, on a client project, will only assign staff or engage colleagues who have knowledge and expertise appropriate to that client's needs.

I will establish with my clients' realistic expectations of the benefits and results of my services. Together we will define the scope and process of the assignment and the basis of remuneration.

I pledge that considerations of personal benefit will never over-ride my focus on the public interest and the interest of the client or their stakeholders.

I promise to uphold both the letter and the spirit of all laws, and regulations governing the profession and my own conduct, that of my client and of the communities in which we both operate. My behaviour (at all times) will exemplify the values I publicly adopt in making this pledge.

I will be equally vigilant in ensuring the professional behaviour of fellow SAIPA members within my practice or the wider membership and will bring to attention any violation of this shared professional code.

I will not permit considerations of race, gender, nationality, religion, politics, sexual orientation or social status to influence my professional behaviour or advice. I will be respectful of those whose wellbeing may be contingent on my decisions or advice. I will diligently apply objective judgement to all consulting assignments, based on the best information available to me. I will conduct independent research and analysis where possible and will consult with colleagues and others who can help inform my judgement.

I will continually invest in professional development to keep abreast of evolving knowledge within my profession and in my areas of technical expertise.

I recognise that my status and privileges, as a professional, stem from the respect and trust that the profession as a whole enjoys; and I accept my responsibility to employ, protect and develop the above standards to enhance that respect and trust.

***I do so solemnly pledge.***

