STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

A profession has the opportunity to set ethical standards that will benefit society and the profession. Members of The American Dietetic Association, engaged in diverse roles in the practice, education and research of dietetics, have voluntarily developed Standards of Professional Responsibility which reflect the ethical principles of the dietetic profession and outline obligations of the member to self, client, society, and the profession.

1. THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL SERVICE WITH OBJECTIVITY AND WITH RESPECT FOR THE UNIQUE NEEDS AND VALUES OF INDIVIDUALS.

- The member avoids discrimination on the basis of factors that are irrelevant to the provision of professional services, including, but not limited to, race, creed, sex and age.
- The member provides sufficient information to enable clients to make their own informed decisions.

2. THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER ACCURATELY PRESENTS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND CREDENTIALS.

- The member uses "R.D." or "Registered Dietitian" only when registration is current and authorized by the Commission on Dietetic Registration.
- The member permits use of his/her name for the purpose of certifying that dietetic services have been rendered only if he/she has provided or supervised the provision of those services.

3. THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER REMAINS FREE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST WHILE FULFILLING THE OBJECTIVES AND MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE DIETETIC PROFESSION.

- The member advances and promotes the profession while maintaining professional judgment, honesty, integrity, loyalty and trust to colleagues, clients and the public.
- The member promotes or endorses products only in a manner which is neither false nor misleading.

4. THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PERSONAL COMPETENCE IN PRACTICE.
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• The member maintains knowledge and skills required for continuing professional competence.

• The member recognizes the limits of his/her qualifications and seeks counsel or makes referrals as appropriate.

• The member adheres to accepted standards for his/her area of practice.

5. THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER COMPLIES WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE PROFESSION, BUT SEeks TO CHANGE THEM IF THEY ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PROFESSION.

6. THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER PRESENTS SUBSTANTIATED INFORMATION AND INTERPRETS CONTROVERSIAL INFORMATION WITHOUT PERSONAL BIAS, RECOGNIZING THAT LEGITIMATE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION EXIST.

7. THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER MAINTAINS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

8. THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER CONDUCTS HIM/HERSELF WITH HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS.

• The member makes and fulfills professional commitments in good faith.

• The member who wishes to inform the public and colleagues of his/her services does so by using factual information. The member does not advertise in a misleading manner.

• The member makes all reasonable effort to avoid bias in any kind of professional evaluation.

• The member provides objective evaluation of candidates for professional association memberships, awards, scholarships or job advancements.


Adopted by the House of Delegates, October 17, 1982.

Passed by the Board of Directors, April 20, 1983, for implementation in January, 1984.