

CFES CODE OF CONDUCT

The Coalition of Financial Ecosystem Standards (CFES) has developed this Code of Conduct to define the expectations for professional and ethical behavior of all CFES-Qualified Assessors. All CFES-Qualified Assessors must advocate, adhere to, and support the following principles:

1. Professional Competence and Excellence

Actions must reflect professional competence, due care, and adherence to CFES standards and best practices.

- **Perform with integrity:** Execute all aspects of your work honorably, responsibly, diligently, and objectively
- **Standards integrity:** Uphold and protect the integrity of CFES standards, ensuring their application supports the safety, soundness, and consumer protections they are designed to promote
- **Client-centered service:** Act in the best interest of the entities and individuals to whom you provide services or support within the bounds of CFES standards, keeping them informed of relevant changes to CFES standards and guidance
- **Scope of competence:** Render only those services for which you are fully competent, qualified, and properly trained to perform
- **Continuous improvement:** Promote current best practices and standards within your field of expertise
- **Professional development:** Maintain and enhance your professional knowledge and skills through ongoing education and training

2. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Perform duties in a manner that supports confidentiality, data security, and information integrity.

- **Information safeguarding:** Respect and safeguard confidential, proprietary, or otherwise sensitive information encountered during professional activities
- **Incident reporting:** Immediately notify appropriate authorities and/or relevant personnel as required should you discover or suspect any breach of confidentiality or professional standards
- **Privacy protection:** Maintain strict confidentiality regarding client information, internal processes, and sensitive organizational data
- **Secure practices:** Implement and maintain appropriate security measures in all professional activities

3. Integrity and Ethical Conduct

Operate with unwavering integrity in all professional interactions and decisions.

- **Reputation protection:** Refrain from conduct that could damage or reflect poorly on the reputation of CFES, its standards, your profession, or the practice of colleagues, clients, or employers
- **Conflict of interest:** Identify, disclose, and appropriately manage any activities that might constitute a conflict of interest
- **Honesty and transparency:** Maintain honesty and accuracy when delivering information, guidance, or services related to CFES programs, standards, and documentation
- **Ethical reporting:** Report ethical violations or concerns to CFES leadership in a timely and appropriate manner
- **Fair dealing:** Treat all individuals with respect, fairness, and without discrimination

4. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and industry standards relevant to your professional practice.

- **Legal adherence:** Maintain full compliance with local, state, federal, and international laws applicable to your work
- **Industry standards:** Adhere to relevant industry standards and regulatory requirements
- **Professional standards:** Follow all CFES guidelines, policies, and procedural requirements
- **Continuous monitoring:** Stay informed of changes to applicable laws and regulations affecting your professional practice

5. Professional Relationships and Communication

Foster positive professional relationships and maintain effective communication standards.

- **Respectful interaction:** Treat colleagues, clients, and stakeholders with respect, courtesy, and professionalism
- **Clear communication:** Provide clear, accurate, and timely communication in all professional interactions
- **Collaborative approach:** Work collaboratively with others to achieve common goals and objectives
- **Constructive feedback:** Provide and receive feedback in a constructive and professional manner

Enforcement and Disciplinary Action

CFES-qualified individuals who violate any of the foregoing principles will be subject to disciplinary action by CFES, including but not limited to:

- Formal reprimand
- Mandatory additional training or education
- Probationary status
- Suspension of qualified status
- Revocation of qualification
- Permanent removal from CFES programs

Reporting Violations

Members who become aware of potential violations of this Code of Conduct should report such concerns through established CFES channels. All reports will be handled confidentially and investigated thoroughly according to CFES procedures.

Acknowledgment

By maintaining CFES certification or membership, individuals acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. This code supplements, but does not replace, applicable laws, regulations, and other professional obligations.

This Code of Conduct is subject to periodic review and revision. CFES-Qualified Assessors will be notified of any changes and are responsible for staying current with the most recent version.