Idaho Coroner’s Code of Conduct and Ethics

Personal:

The coroner acts with honesty, compassion, integrity, and respect for human dignity. The coroner maintains competence and accountability for his actions.

Professional:

1- The Member of the ISACC shall perform his/her duties without fear, prejudice or partiality towards any person or institution.

2- The Member of the ISACC shall respect the religious views of the deceased and his/her family in regard to autopsy examination unless that examination is necessary to prove or disprove criminal negligence on the part of an individual or institution, within the bounds of the law or regulations.

3- The Member of the ISACC, in the delegation of his/her investigative powers to another individual as his/her deputy, shall insure that the individual so authorized is knowledgeable of the laws concerning the Coroner and of this Code of Ethics.

4- The Member of the ISACC shall proceed in the public interest to carry out diligently and as rapidly as possible the duties and responsibilities as defined by Idaho law.

5- The Member of the ISACC shall have regard for the fact that he/she is performing a public duty and that his/her actions and decisions affect the public interest as well as the interest of private individuals.

6- The Member of the ISACC shall accept his/her share of responsibility towards society in relation to matters of public health, health and safety education and legislation affecting the health and well-being of the community.

7- The Member of the ISACC shall not, in the discharge of his/her duties; make decisions beyond the scope of his/her personal expertise and knowledge but shall seek guidance from the appropriate source or sources.
8- The Member of the ISACC shall assist law enforcement agencies, prosecution or defense and all officials involved in the administration of justice in the discharge of their duties within the bounds set by the laws affecting the Coroner’s Office.

9- The Member of the ISACC shall not interfere in an investigation or inquest which has been undertaken by a Coroner/Medical Examiner in another jurisdiction and will not initiate an investigation or inquest in another jurisdiction unless directed to do so by appropriate authority.

10- A Member of the ISACC shall disqualify himself/herself from acting at an investigation or inquest where any actual conflict of interest appears to exist.

11- The Member of the ISACC, presiding at an inquest, shall exercise his/her duties and responsibilities so as to assist the jury to return a fair, impartial and proper verdict based on the evidence.

12- When presiding at an inquest the Member of the ISACC shall instruct the jury and receive the jury’s verdict with impartiality.

13- A Member of the ISACC shall bear in mind that an inquest is designed to determine and make public the facts surrounding a particular death and that an inquest may be opened to the public as defined by the jurisdiction’s Laws or Statutes.

14- The Member of the ISACC shall not conduct himself/herself in a manner which might tend to bring his/her office into disrepute or affect public confidence in that office.

15- The Member of the ISACC shall not act in a manner designed to or having the effect of publicizing or enhancing his/her medical practice, funeral establishment or other personal occupational endeavor within the community.

16- The Member of the ISACC shall strive to increase in knowledge of matters pertinent to the proper and effective performance of his/her duties and where the possible shall attend educational training programs conducted by the Idaho State Association of County Coroners or additional trainings approved by the ISACC Education Committee.
17- The Member of the ISACC shall avoid making any comments concerning morality of the conduct of person concerned in an investigation.

18- A Member of the ISACC shall respect the confidentiality of any information received by him/her in the performance of his/her duties.

19- The Member of the ISACC shall not release the names of the deceased individuals until such times as the families of the deceased have been notified or if such efforts have failed and the release is made as a last resort to locate Next of Kin.

20- The Member of the ISACC shall assure the family of the deceased free choice of funeral establishment or other means of disposition of the remains.

21- All Members of the ISACC shall refrain from serving as the Personal Representative of a decedent’s estate of which he/she has jurisdiction as the Coroner/Medical Examiner or Representative.

22- All members of the ISACC shall support his state coroner’s association (Idaho State Association of County Coroners) by paying annual dues and attending at least one of the two annual conferences offered by that association to the best of his/her ability.