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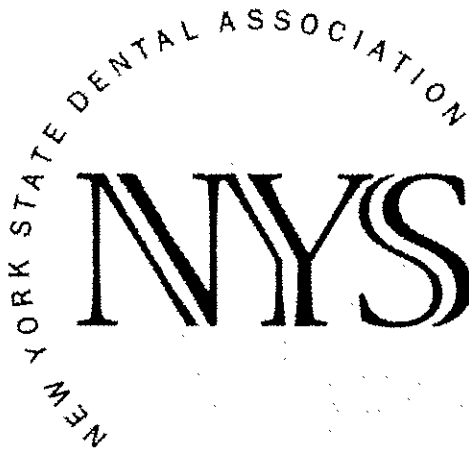
**Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct of the New York State Dental Association, Excerpt**

NEW YORK STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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## Introduction

The practice of dentistry was established as a profession with one overriding principle in mind: the benefit of the patient. This is the cornerstone of dental ethics. This philosophy is the foundation of The Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct of the New York State Dental Association. All members should make the Principles and Code an important part of the very fabric of their practices.

The Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct  
of The New York State Dental Association

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# Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct

## **PREAMBLE**

In order to provide guidance in matter of ethics to the members of the New York State Dental Association, the following Principles and Code have been adopted.

The New York State Dental Association has the right and the obligation to regulate itself and to discipline its members. Every member of this Association shall be bound by the laws of the land, the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct of the American Dental Association, the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct of the New York State Dental Association and the code of ethics of the component society of which she/he is a member or in which she/he practices.

A component society may adopt interpretations in its code of ethics not in conflict with and not less stringent than this Code or that of the American Dental Association.

## Principle Section One

### **SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC AND QUALITY OF CARE**

The dentist's primary professional obligation shall be service to the public. The competent and timely delivery of care with due consideration for the needs and desires of the patient, shall be the most important aspect of that obligation.

### **Code of Professional Conduct**

- 1-A. Patient Selection. In serving the public, a dentist may exercise reasonable discretion in selecting patients for her/his practice. However, she/he may not deny dental care to an individual solely because of her/his race, creed, color, sex, handicap, disability, or national origin.

## Advisory Opinion

*A dentist should strive to make her/his services accessible to all who are in need.*

- 1-B. Patient Records. Patients are entitled to copies of their records. On receipt of a patient's written request, a dentist must provide her/him with copies of all pertinent records including radiographs, except as otherwise provided by state law. The confidentiality of patient records must be maintained.

## Advisory Opinions

1. *It is unethical to use undue influence or intimidation to solicit patients from a former employer.*
  2. *It is unethical for an employing dentist to deliberately withhold information as to the whereabouts of a treating dentist who has left employment.*
  3. *Copies of records shall be provided by dentists to patients within a reasonable time, not to exceed ten days from the date of a patient's written request.*
  4. *A dentist shall not withhold copies of records from patients based on the patient owing any balance to the dentist or the patient not paying any copying charges. A dentist may charge a fee for copying patient records, but shall not charge more than the actual cost of copying, and shall never charge more than 75 cents per page for paper copies, in accordance with state law.*
- 1-C. Community Service. Dentists have an obligation to use their skill, knowledge, and experience for improvement of the dental health of the public and are encouraged to be leaders in their community. In this service they shall