

## **MCA ETHICAL STANDARDS**

### **I. *On respecting the human dignity and inalienable rights of all persons:***

1. Withhold judgment of offenders until all available information has been compiled.
2. Recognize the limitation of invested authority and expertise and to refrain from offering clients legal advice.
3. Treat offenders with impartiality regarding race, religion, sex, or age.
4. Be aware of and conscientiously set aside personal biases in dealing with offenders.
5. Respect the confidential nature of the relationship between offenders and probation department staff.

### **II. *On conducting one's personal life with decorum:***

1. Avoid involvement in activities which would reflect adversely on the probation department or the court.
2. Refrain from engaging in private, social or business transactions with offenders, their families, or their close personal associates.
3. Refrain from accepting gifts from offenders, their families, their close personal associates, or their attorney.
4. Avoid supervision of offenders with whom a business, social, or familial relationship pre-exists.
5. Avoid activity which raises a question of appearance of fairness or impropriety.
6. Refrain from proselytizing personal values and beliefs to offenders.
7. Practice discretion when participating in political activities.
8. Govern personal and social behavior in accordance with one's status as a criminal justice professional.

### **III. *On upholding the law with dignity:***

1. Refrain from involvement in illegal activity.
2. Cooperate with law enforcement agencies by providing pertinent information on probationers activities, associates, and residence.
3. Advise police of offender's involvement in the commission of a crime.
4. Refrain from personally determining the merit of any law, but rather recognize the responsibility to uphold it.
5. Remember, in the execution of professional duties, the paramount importance of the safety of the community.

### **IV. *Continually striving to improve:***

1. Adhere to the in-service training requirements as set forth by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.
2. Keep abreast of new additions to the body of corrections knowledge, and of new or modified legislation pertinent to the field.
3. Remain open to learning and employing new rehabilitative methods, techniques, and programs.

### **V. *Working toward the development and maintenance of conditions in keeping with these standards:***

1. Contribute personal knowledge, skills, and support to programs of human services.
2. Treat with respect the findings, views, and actions of colleagues, and use appropriate channels to critique these matters.
3. Promote a positive image of the corrections profession through support of and participation in community activities, and through cooperation with other community service agencies.
4. Provide assistance and support to colleagues in the dispatch of their professional duties.