



# Rules and Regulations Proposed (and public comment article)

The ABCR is proposing a change to the Board's Rules and Regulations. Specifically, CHAPTER 257-X-4-.02 ABCR Ethics. For your convenience, the proposed rule change in its' entirety is as follows:

## “257-X-4-.02 ABCR ETHICS

The mandatory Code of Professional Ethics defines the ethical relationship the public, the bench, and the bar have a right to expect from a Licensee. The Code sets out the conduct of the member when dealing with the user of reporting services and acquaints the user, as well as the Member, with the guidelines established for professional behavior. The Guidelines for Professional Practice, on the other hand, are goals which every Member should strive to attain and maintain. Members are urged to comply with the Guidelines and must adhere to local, state and federal rules and statutes. It should be noted that these guidelines do not exhaust the moral and ethical considerations with which the Member should conform, but provide the framework for the practice of reporting. Not every situation a Member may encounter can be foreseen, but a Member should always adhere to fundamental ethical principles. By complying with the Code of Professional Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Practice, Members maintain their profession at the highest level. A member shall:

- 1) Be fair and impartial toward each participant in all aspects of reported proceedings, and always offer to provide comparable services to all parties in a proceeding.
- 2) Be alert to situations that are conflicts of interest or that may give the appearance of a conflict of interest. If a conflict or a potential conflict arises, the Member shall disclose that conflict or potential conflict.
- 3) Guard against not only the fact but the appearance of impropriety.
- 4) Preserve the confidentiality and ensure the security of information, oral or written, entrusted to the Member by any of the parties in a proceeding.
- 5) Be truthful and accurate when making public statements or when advertising the Member's qualifications or the services provided.
- 6) Refrain, as an official reporter, from freelance reporting activities that interfere with official duties and obligations.
- 7) Determine fees independently, except when established by statute or court order, entering into no unlawful agreements with other reporters on the fees to any user.
- 8) Refrain from giving, directly or indirectly, any gift or anything of value to attorneys or their staff, other clients or their staff, or any other persons or entities associated with any litigation, which exceeds \$100 in the aggregate per recipient each year. Nothing offered in exchange for future work is permissible, regardless of its value. Pro bono services as defined by the NCRA Guidelines for professional Practice or by applicable state and local laws, rules and regulations are permissible in any amount.
- 9) Maintain the integrity of the reporting profession.
- 10) Abide by the ABCR Rules and Regulations and Statutes.

The ABCR will receive written comments regarding the proposed Rule and Regulation change (see above article) thru **February 5, 2013**. Please mail to:

**ABCR**

**P.O. Box 241565**

**Montgomery, AL 36124**

A public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on **February 1, 2013**, at the ABCR office located at:  
**2011 Berry Chase Place**  
**Montgomery, AL 36117**

Any new rule that is adopted (either with or without) changes will be posted on the Board web site and e-mailed to all licensees (to the licensee's e-mail on record) on or before the new rule's effective date.