

Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility

The Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility is provided as an expression of the ethical standards that the Institute for Divorce Financial Analysts® (IDFA®) has adopted and every Certified Divorce Financial Analyst® (CDFA®) professional has agreed to abide by.

INTEGRITY- Maintain the highest standard of honesty and integrity when dealing with colleagues, the IDFA, clients or lawyers. Avoid practices that would dishonor your profession, IDFA or any of its members and employees.

COMPETENCE- In addition to satisfying the continuing education requirement needed to maintain the use of the designation, every CDFA professional should serve his or her clients competently. Therefore, acquiring the knowledge and skill necessary to do so in the area of divorce planning is required.

OBJECTIVITY- Objectivity requires a CDFA professional to be intellectually honest and impartial. Regardless of who hired him or her, a CDFA professional will always be objective when dealing with clients and their lawyers.

FAIRNESS- CDFA professionals who maintain their financial practices should make divorce-planning recommendations independent of the potential financial planning relationship. Doing so will alleviate the risk of potential conflict of interest. To do so, a CDFA professional will need to separate the two practices so as not to confuse the public.

CONFIDENTIALITY- A CDFA professional shall hold client information to the highest standard of confidentiality. Short of client consent or appropriate legal process, a CDFA professional shall not release any information about their client before, during, or after the divorce.

PROFESSIONALISM- A CDFA professional's interactions shall project the highest levels of professionalism. Whether dealing with clients, attorneys, IDFA or any of its partners or subsidiaries, a CDFA professional will behave in a professional manner.

SCOPE- A CDFA professional, by education and training, is a specialist dealing in the financial implications of divorce. Working alongside the licensed lawyer, a CDFA professional must never (unless licensed to do so) advise clients on their legal rights. In addition, a CDFA professional must never market his or her services in a misleading fashion or present themselves as representatives of IDFA.

COMPLIANCE- A CDFA professional will comply with all the laws related to the business they conduct and report to the IDFA any actions by other CDFA professionals that are illegal or in violation of this code. In addition, a CDFA professional will comply with any requests from the IDFA for information regarding any complaints brought against him or her. If IDFA, after comprehensive investigation, decides that either suspension or revocation of the CDFA designation is the proper remedy, a CDFA professional will comply with the order.

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW- A CDFA professional understands that, in order to practice law, one must be licensed. Under no circumstances will a CDFA professional represent that the IDFA certification is a license to practice law.

SUPPORT- A CDFA professional will always support our profession and IDFA as the driving force behind the profession's progress. A CDFA professional will not debase or discredit the IDFA or the profession.