

ICF Coaching Code of Ethics

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The personal core values of coaching are to make sure every client is treated with integrity and honesty. Coaches are held to an accountability standard that requires credentials and strict enforcement of standards of conduct. Professional conduct is the first ethical matter mentioned in the ICF code because it is imperative that all coaches present themselves as professionals always. This means conducting lawful business, credential transparency, honestly credit those whose materials you use, and maintain all personal information from clients by storing and disposing of it in a manner deemed professional and protective. Professionalism covers clients but also those of the public, other coaches, students, mentees, trainers, and employees. When working with individuals personal access to their lives are granted and confidentiality and privacy is of utmost importance. There must be a clear agreement on how information from a client will be gathered, used, and stored. There must also be a strict requirement for all those who work with coaches to adhere to the ICF code of ethics as well. Coaching is an evolving sector and an important section of the code of ethics is to continue to educate yourself. The development of professional skills is essential to making sure your coaching practice has credibility and certification. Many will choose a coach based on word of mouth and credentials. Making a pledge to uphold the ICF code ethics should be every coach's commitment to the practice. This is only a foundation of how coaches should conduct themselves, but the high moral road is instinctively up to the individual themselves. Breach of any of the ethics code places the coaching practices in jeopardy of not converting into the profession that many are seeking to push it too.

