

POSITION STATEMENT

Adhering to the ADHA Code of Ethics

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA®) calls on all dental hygienists to uphold the integrity of the profession and prioritize public safety by adhering to the ADHA Code of Ethics.

The ADHA Code of Ethics is a framework centered on professional responsibility, development, and the well-being of those we serve, ensuring that care is delivered with the highest standards of safety, integrity, and accountability. It serves as the ethical cornerstone of dental hygiene practice, embodying our profession's core values of individual autonomy, confidentiality, societal trust, non-maleficence, beneficence, justice and fairness, and veracity. This framework is essential for navigating complex ethical dilemmas and fostering ethical decision-making among members of the profession.

By establishing clear standards of professional responsibility, the Code strengthens public trust and ensures accountability to individuals, colleagues, the profession, and society. It empowers dental hygienists to advocate for vulnerable populations, resist workplace exploitation, and promote equitable access to care. A unified commitment to ethical practice and professional accountability is essential for preventing harm, reducing healthcare disparities, and protecting the well-being of the communities we serve.

Adherence to the ADHA's ethical standards ultimately safeguards both individuals and practitioners, while upholding the integrity of the dental hygiene profession. We urge all dental hygienists to incorporate the Code of Ethics into daily practice, because it is a testament to our collective commitment to public safety, professional excellence, and the advancement of oral health for all.

To view the ADHA Code of Ethics visit <https://www.adha.org/ADHA-Code-of-Ethics>

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