

## **Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Road Traffic Accident/Collision Investigators**

This Code of Professional Practice and Conduct is designed for all persons engaged in accident/collision investigation and reconstruction, whether members of a professional body or not, from the youngest student to the most senior practitioner.

Accident/collision investigation and reconstruction is a multi-disciplinary science of which engineering is a considerable constituent.

The Engineering Council and the Royal Academy of Engineering have jointly created a “Statement of Ethical Principles” for all engineering professionals<sup>1</sup>. All persons practising or otherwise involved in road traffic accident/collision investigation should read the Statement of Ethical Principles in conjunction with this Code of Professional Practice and Conduct.

Additionally, such persons are expected to act with integrity and in the public interest; and will act in accordance with the following Codes of Practice and Conduct. All practitioners shall:

1. By their conduct, uphold the reputation and standing of the profession by applying the specialist discipline of road traffic accident investigation as a technical and scientific skill. They will act with due skill, care and diligence and with proper regard for professional standards.
2. Conduct their professional affairs honorably, taking account of their responsibilities towards society generally; treat all persons fairly and with respect; enrich their knowledge; and support their fellow professionals by encouraging others to advance their learning and competence.
3. Assist the promotion of fair and honest practices and the suppression of malpractice generally in these respects; making positive efforts to ensure others do likewise. Honesty and integrity are paramount requirements for any person practicing or otherwise involved in road traffic accident/collision investigation.
4. Raise a concern of any instance of professional misconduct or gross professional negligence which is within their first-hand knowledge, by any person purporting at the time of such misconduct or negligence to be a traffic accident investigator.

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<sup>1</sup> Copies of the statement are accessible from the websites of The Institute of Traffic Accident Investigators (ITAI), Engineering Council and Royal Academy of Engineering.

5. Support a colleague or any other person to whom they have a duty of care who, in good faith, raises any such concern.
6. Avoid where possible, real or perceived conflict of interest, and advise affected parties when such conflicts arise.
7. Observe the proper duties of confidentiality owed to appropriate parties.
8. Be permitted to advertise his/her services, but such advertising shall be in good taste and not of such character as may reasonably be regarded to bring the profession into disrepute. Touting is strictly prohibited.
9. Maintain and enhance their competence, undertake only professional tasks for which they are competent, and disclose relevant limitations of competence. They shall assess and manage relevant risks and communicate these appropriately. They shall assess relevant liability and, if appropriate, hold professional indemnity insurance.
10. Maintain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to an appropriate level; and if so required, be able to produce a record of any such CPD.
11. Shall not offer or accept payment contingent upon the nature of the expert evidence given in legal proceedings, or upon the outcome of the case.
12. When undertaking work and preparing reports for potential use within the Courts system, shall comply with this code, together with the Civil Procedure Rules, Criminal Procedure Rules, and the current Code of Professional Practice and Conduct, procedures and guidelines as set out by the Forensic Science Regulator.
13. Shall notify the appropriate authority and/or professional body if:
  - convicted of a recordable criminal offence or received an adverse civil court judgement in relation to any aspect of the Institute's Code of Professional Conduct (whether in the UK or overseas);
  - upon being declared bankrupt or disqualified as a Company Director or Charity Trustee;
  - had a membership of any professional body terminated as the result of a disciplinary procedure.