

What the ICF Code of Ethics means to me?

What is it?

It is a set of principles and behaviors for all ICF professionals. It is a pledge that I make as an ICF accredited coach that defines how I interact with my clients. It is about striving to be ethical – even when this involves difficult or courageous decisions.

What does it cover?

The ICF Code of Ethics is divided into four sections, which I have summarized below.

Section 1: Responsibility to clients

This section outlines the importance of explaining what coaching is, and having clear agreements in place outlining my responsibilities. It is about ensuring confidentiality but also being clear in outlining exceptional situations where information can not be kept confidentially. For example, when there is a perceived risk to the welfare of the client. At the heart of this section is my transparency as an ICF professional, for example in always bringing to attention any conflicts of interest.

Section 2: Responsibility to practice and performance

This section highlights the commitment I make as an ICF professional to my own excellence through continued professional and personal development and in meeting the ethical standards of the ICF. It recognizes that I am a human being and highlights the need of a coach to be proactive in seeking support when faced with a situation that might impact their performance as a coach.

Section 3: Responsibility to professionalism

This section outlines the importance of clearly and accurately highlighting my competence, expertise and qualifications as an ICF

accredited coach. It also emphasizes my responsibility in setting clear and appropriate professional boundaries in my relationships with my clients.

Section 4: Responsibility to Society

The section of the code of ethics outlines my commitment to equality and fairness in all my interactions as a coach. It recognizes the importance of respecting the intellectual property of others and in respecting scientific standards when conducting research as an ICF professional.

It concludes with a very powerful commitment to adhering to 'doing good' versus simply 'avoiding bad'.

*If you have any questions on any of the above please contact me –
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