

Ethics and Professional Responsibility

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National Association of Legal Assist

agrees to follow the canons of the NALA Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility in connection with its participation in the NALA Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility. First adopted by the NALA membership in May of 1975, this Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility is the foundation of ethical practices of paralegals in the legal community.

Paralegals shall adhere strictly to the accepted standards of legal ethics and to the general principles of professional conduct. The conduct of the paralegal shall be governed by specific canons as defined herein so that justice may be attained. (See Model Standards and Guidelines for Utilization of Legal Assistants, Section 1.01.)

The rules set forth hereafter are adopted by the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc., as the national organization of paralegals. The enumeration of these rules does not mean there are not others of equal importance. Court rules, agency rules and statutes must be taken into consideration when interpreting these rules.

any task which is properly delegated and supervised by an attorney, as long as the attorney maintains a direct relationship with the client, and assumes professional responsibility

engage in, encourage, or contribute to any act which could constitute the unauthorized practice of law; (b) establish or maintain attorney-client relationships, set fees, give legal opinions or advice or represent a client before a court or agency; and (c) engage in conduct or take any action which would assist or involve the unauthorized practice of law or give the appearance of professional impropriety.

exercise of professional judgment commensurate with knowledge and experience but not in place of an attorney. The services of an attorney are essential in the public interest

and his or her status as a paralegal at the outset of any professional relationship with a client, the attorney's personnel thereof, or a member of the general public. A paralegal must act prudently and may not be assisted without the presence of an attorney.