



## **SECTION III**

### **CODE OF ETHICS AND STANDARD PRACTICES**

#### **A. Code of Ethics**

As a means to promote the highest quality of professional and personal conduct of its Diplomates and candidates, the following constitutes the Code of Ethics and Competency, which is endorsed and adhered to by all Diplomates and candidates of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE):

1. A Diplomate or candidate of the ABFDE shall not exercise professional or personal conduct adverse to the best interest and objectives of the ABFDE.
2. A Diplomate or candidate of the ABFDE shall not provide any material misrepresentation of education, training, experience or area of expertise.
3. A Diplomate or candidate of the ABFDE shall not provide any material misrepresentation, in reports, conversations, or testimony of data upon which an expert opinion or conclusion is based.
4. A Diplomate or candidate of the ABFDE shall not issue public statements, which appear to represent the position of the ABFDE without specific authority first obtained from the President.
5. A Diplomate or candidate of the ABFDE shall treat all information obtained from a client/agency or through the examination of a document in the strictest confidence.
6. A Diplomate or candidate of the ABFDE shall not knowingly perform any service for a person whose interests are opposed to those of his/her client/agency unless directed to do so by the client/agency or by a special order issued by the court.
7. A Diplomate or candidate of the ABFDE shall not accept cases where the payment for the services to be rendered is made contingent upon the outcome of either the Diplomate's or candidate's examination or the litigation in which the client/agency is or will be involved. Any compensation exacted by a Diplomate or candidate shall also be fair and equitable.
8. A Diplomate or candidate of the ABFDE will only render opinions which are within his/her area of expertise, and will act, at all times, in a completely impartial manner by employing scientific methodology to reach logical and unbiased conclusions.