



Purpose

The Council on Professionalism and Mediation is responsible for the promotion and maintenance of evidence-based professional practice in contemporary dentistry; interpretation and enforcement of a viable and legally enforceable Code of Ethics; and provision of a neutral and cost-effective professional dispute resolution process for members and their patients.

Primary Duties

Professionalism/Ethics Program:

- Develop educational offerings on issues related to dental ethics and professionalism.
- Support local dental society needs on issues related to dental ethics and professionalism.
- Consider proposals for amending the CDA Code of Ethics.
- Provide advisory opinions interpreting the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct and the CDA Code of Ethics, to be approved by the CDA board.
- Exercise the powers of this association to discipline members. Decisions of the council shall be final unless a right of appeal is provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Dental Association.

Dispute Resolution Program:

- Develop, guide and monitor a mediation program that provides a positive, cost-effective and prompt mechanism to promote effective communication and conflict resolution between patients and dentists/dental office staff.
- Promote mediation as a member benefit and public service.

Qualifications/Skills

- CDA member in good standing.
- Knowledge of and experience with previous CDA mediation process preferred.
- Prior service as member of a local peer review or ethics committee.
- Minimum of three years post-dental school graduation.
- Knowledge of dental ethics issues or ethics education.
- Ability and willingness to make public presentations to various size groups.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability and willingness to mentor and evaluate mediators.

Time Requirements

- Council meetings: Three to four annually
- Mediation trainings: One annually
- Evaluating and mentoring mediators: As needed throughout the year, at least once annually
- Participation in presentation of professionalism and ethics courses: Periodically
- Development of educational materials on professionalism and ethics: Periodically
- Conference calls: As needed to conduct business

Composition

The committee shall be comprised of nine members:

- At-large members (9): Nine members, recommended by the Committee on Volunteer Placement and elected by the CDA board.

The chair shall be appointed by the president.

Term/Tenure

- The term shall be three years. The tenure shall be three terms.