

Code of Ethics

§ 501. Code of Ethics

A. PURPOSE

Integrity, honesty, and objectivity are fundamental principles embraced by this Code of Ethics, which sets forth the obligations of ethical conduct for the Licensed Home inspector (LHI). The Louisiana State Board of Home Inspectors (LSBHI) has enacted this Code to provide high ethical standards to safeguard the public and the profession. LHIs in Louisiana shall comply with this Code, shall avoid association with any enterprise whose practices violate this Code, and shall strive to uphold, maintain, and improve the integrity, reputation, and practice of the home inspection profession.

B. ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

1. The LHI shall avoid conflicts of interest or activities that compromise, or appear to compromise, professional independence, objectivity, or inspection integrity.
2. The LHI shall not inspect properties for compensation in which he has, or expects to have, a financial interest.
3. The LHI shall not inspect properties under contingent arrangements whereby any compensation or future referrals are dependent upon reported or non-reported findings or on the sale of a property.
4. The LHI shall not directly or indirectly compensate realty agents, brokers or realty companies or other parties having a financial interest in the closing/settlement of real estate transactions, for the referral of inspections or for inclusion on a list of recommended inspectors, preferred providers, or similar arrangements.
5. The LHI shall not receive compensation from more than one party per inspection unless agreed to by the client(s).
6. The LHI shall not accept compensation, directly or indirectly, for referring or recommending contractors, services, or products to inspection clients or other parties having an interest in inspected properties, unless disclosed and scheduled prior to the home inspection.
7. The LHI shall not repair, replace or upgrade for compensation, reported deficient systems or components covered by these Standards of Practice, until after closing/settlement of the real estate transaction.
8. The LHI shall act in good faith toward each client and other interested parties.
9. The LHI shall perform services and express opinions based upon genuine conviction and only within his areas of education, training or experience.
10. The LHI shall be objective in his reporting and shall not knowingly understate or overstate the significance of observed conditions.
11. The LHI shall not disclose inspection results or a client's personal information without approval of the client or the client's designated representative. At his discretion, the LHI may disclose immediate safety hazards observed to occupants, or interested parties, exposed to such hazards.
12. The LHI shall avoid activities that may harm the public, discredit himself or reduce public confidence in the profession.
13. The LHI shall not disseminate or distribute advertising, marketing, or promotion materials which are fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading with respect to the education, experience, or qualifications of the LHI or the company with which he is affiliated.
14. The LHI shall include his license number on all advertising, marketing and promotional material.
15. The LHI shall report substantial and willful violations of this Code to the LSBHI.