



Code of Professionalism and Professional Conduct

- Professionalism refers to the set of behaviors, values, and attitudes that are expected of dental professionals in their interactions with patients, colleagues, and society at large to promote ethical practice and uphold the integrity of pediatric dentistry. Professionalism encompasses a range of qualities, including empathy, integrity, respect, and accountability, as well as the ability to communicate effectively, work collaboratively, and maintain a high level of clinical competence.
- Professional conduct refers to the specific actions and behaviors that are considered appropriate and ethical for dentists. Dentists are expected to comply with the ethical and professional standards of care, such as obtaining informed consent from patients, maintaining confidentiality, avoiding conflicts of interest, and upholding the principles of patient autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, justice, and veracity.
- Professionalism and professional conduct are both essential for ensuring that patients receive high-quality, safe, and compassionate care and play an important role in building trust between patients and dentists, and in maintaining the integrity and reputation of the dental profession.
- An ABPD applicant, candidate, or diplomate is expected to act in patients' best interests, take appropriate care of themselves, uphold the highest standards of professionalism and professional conduct, represent their ABPD certification and continuing certification status in a professional manner, be committed to evidence-based dental practice, and maintain competence through continuing certification.
- As a measure of professionalism, professional standing, and professional conduct, ABPD relies on the annual review of licensure and credentials in accordance with its Annual Diplomate Renewal procedures and the obligation of applicants, candidates, and diplomates to notify ABPD within thirty (30) days of any action against their license or credentials to practice dentistry.
- ABPD also investigates complaints it receives about applicants, candidates, and diplomates related to professionalism and professional conduct.