Section S. Standards of Ethical Conduct

Introduction

As is true for all other members of the Coast Guard, Auxiliarists are expected to uniformly and consistently uphold and practice the highest standards of ethical conduct in the course of their Auxiliary activities and in the course of their personal lives so as to never discredit the United States Coast Guard nor the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Accordingly, all Auxiliarists are expected to adhere to the Coast Guard's standards of ethical conduct, and, moreover, should expect to be held accountable for deviation from such within the allowances of Chapter 3 of this Manual. Additional information about ethics in the Coast Guard is available through the Auxiliary Mandated Training (MT) discussed in section 8.E of this Manual.

S.1. General Principles

The following principles apply to all Auxiliarists and form the basis for their expected ethical conduct as it may relate to the image of the Coast Guard and the performance of their authorized Auxiliary activities. They shall be applied in any and all circumstances to determine whether or not an Auxiliarist's conduct is proper.

a. Public service is a public trust, requiring Auxiliarists to place loyalty to the Constitution, ethical principles, the laws, the governing policies established by the Commandant of the Coast Guard above private gain.
b. Auxiliarists should not hold financial interests that conflict with the conscientious performance of their authorized Auxiliary activities.
c. Auxiliarists shall not engage in financial transactions using non-public Government information or allow the improper use of such information to further any private interest.
d. Auxiliarists shall not, except as allowed by the provisions of section H of Chapter 5, solicit or accept any gift or other item of monetary value from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting activities regulated by the Coast Guard, or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of Auxiliarist's authorized activities. This provision is applicable only when serving in the role of an Auxiliarist.
e. Auxiliarists shall put forth effort in the performance of their authorized activities without attempt to deceive.
f. Auxiliarists shall not knowingly make unauthorized commitments or promises of any kind purporting to bind the Government.
g. Auxiliarists shall not use elected or appointed office, nor any other aspect of their association with the Coast Guard, for private gain.
h. Auxiliarists shall act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any Governmental entity, private organization, or individual.

i. Auxiliarists shall protect and conserve Federal property and shall not use it for other than authorized activities.
j. Auxiliarists should not engage in outside employment or activities, including seeking or negotiating for employment, that conflict with official Auxiliary activities.
k. Auxiliarists shall disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption pursuant to their Auxiliary activities to appropriate Coast Guard authorities.
l. Auxiliarists shall satisfy in good faith their obligations as citizens, including all just financial obligations, especially those such as Federal, State, or local taxes, that are imposed by law.
m. [redacted] Redacted content per Presidential Executive Order No.14151 [redacted]
n. Auxiliarists shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or the ethical standards set forth herein. Whether particular circumstances create an appearance that the law or those standards have been violated shall be determined from the perspective of a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts.
o. Auxiliarists shall refrain from comments among service members and media that unreasonably criticize, attack, or disparage the service.