

**Article 5.--CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

**Part I.--DEFINITIONS, INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY AND OBJECTIVITY, COMMISSIONS AND REFERRAL FEES,  
CONTINGENT FEES**

**74-5-2. Definitions.** Each of the following terms, wherever used in this article of the board's regulations, shall have the meaning specified in this regulation:

- (a) "AICPA" means American institute of certified public accountants.
- (b) "AICPA professional standards" means the standards specified in this subsection, including definitions and interpretations, published by the AICPA, which are hereby adopted by reference. As used in the following AICPA professional standards, "member" shall mean a person or firm subject to the board's regulation:
  - (1) "U.S. auditing standards--AICPA (clarified)" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 1, pages 37-1364, except pages 1279-1285, as in effect on June 1, 2016, and statement on auditing standards no. 132, "the auditor's consideration of an entity's ability to continue as a going concern," dated February 2017;
  - (2) "statements on standards for attestation engagements" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 1, pages 1373-1705, as in effect on June 1, 2016;
  - (3) "U.S. attestation standards--AICPA (clarified)" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 1, pages 1727-2095, as in effect on June 1, 2016;
  - (4) "statements on standards for accounting and review services [clarified]" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 2, pages 2719-2882, as in effect on June 1, 2016, and the following statements issued after June 1, 2016:
    - (A) Statement on standards for accounting and review services no. 22, "compilation of pro forma financial information," except the three unnumbered pages before the table of contents, issued September 2016; and
    - (B) statement on standards for accounting and review services no. 23, "omnibus statement on standards for accounting and review services--2016," except the six unnumbered pages before the table of contents, issued October 2016;
  - (5) "code of professional conduct" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 2, pages 2883-3076, as in effect on June 1, 2016, except for the following sections in Part 1:
    - (A) Section 1.800.001, "form of organization and name";
    - (B) section 1.810.020, "partner designation";
    - (C) section 1.810.030, "a member's responsibility for nonmember practitioners";
    - (D) section 1.810.040, "attest engagement performed with a former partner";
    - (E) section 1.810.050, "alternative practice structures"; and
    - (F) section 1.820.040, "use of a common brand name in firm name";
  - (6) "statements on standards for valuation services" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 2, pages 3293-3344, as in effect on June 1, 2016;
  - (7) "consulting services" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 2, pages 3345-3350, as in effect on June 1, 2016;
  - (8) "quality control" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 2, pages 3353-3386, as in effect on June 1, 2016;
  - (9) "standards for performing and reporting on peer reviews" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 2, pages 3387-3588, as in effect on June 1, 2016;
  - (10) "tax services" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 2, pages 3589-3630, as in effect on June 1, 2016; and
  - (11) "personal financial planning" in "AICPA professional standards," volume 2, pages 3639-3654, as in effect on June 1, 2016.

All definitions included in the standards adopted in this subsection shall apply only to the documents adopted by reference.

- (c) "Audit" means an independent examination of financial information or assertions of any entity, regardless of profit orientation, size, and legal form, if the examination is conducted to express an opinion thereon.
- (d) "Board" means Kansas board of accountancy.
- (e) "Certified public accountant" and "CPA" mean any of the following:
  - (1) A holder of a Kansas certificate;
  - (2) a person practicing certified public accountancy under the authorization to practice as provided in K.S.A. 1-322 and amendments thereto; or
  - (3) a firm.
- (f) "Compilation" shall have the meaning specified in K.S.A. 1-321 and amendments thereto.
- (g) "Firm" shall have the meaning specified in K.S.A. 1-321 and amendments thereto.
- (h) "Generally accepted accounting principles" and "GAAP" mean the following standards, as applicable, in effect as specified and hereby adopted by reference:

- (1) "Federal accounting standards," issued by the federal accounting standards advisory board (FASAB) in "FASAB handbook of federal accounting standards and other pronouncements, as amended," as in effect on June 30, 2016, except for

the following portions: the forward, the preamble, and appendixes A-F. The following standards issued after June 30, 2016 are also adopted:

(A) Statement of federal financial accounting standards 50, "establishing opening balances for general property, plant, and equipment: amending statement of federal financial accounting standards (SFFAS) 6, SFFAS 10, SFFAS 23, and rescinding SFFAS 35," dated August 4, 2016; and

(B) statement of federal financial accounting standards 51, "insurance programs," dated January 18, 2017;

(2) accounting principles as adopted by the financial accounting standards board (FASB) and contained in "FASB accounting standards codification," including accounting standards updates, as contained in volumes 1 through 5, published by the financial accounting standards board (FASB), as in effect on October 31, 2016;

(3) financial accounting principles for state and local governments as adopted by the governmental accounting standards board (GASB) as follows:

(A) "GASB codification of governmental accounting and financial reporting standards," issued by the governmental accounting standards board, as in effect on June 30, 2016;

(B) GASB statement no. 83, "certain asset retirement obligations," except appendixes A and B, issued November 2016;

(C) GASB statement no. 84, "fiduciary activities," except appendixes A and B, issued January 2017; and

(D) GASB statement no. 85, "omnibus 2017," except appendixes A and B, issued March 2017; and

(4) international accounting and reporting principles established by the international accounting standards board (IASB) as contained in "IFRS® standards," part A, issued by the international accounting standards board, as in effect on January 1, 2017, except part A, pages A7-A25.

(i) "Government auditing standards" means the "government auditing standards" issued by the United States government accountability office, 2011 revision, revised on January 20, 2012, which is hereby adopted by reference, except pages 1-3 and appendixes I and III.

(j) "NASBA" means the national association of state boards of accountancy.

(k) "PCAOB" means the public company accounting oversight board created by the Sarbanes-Oxley act of 2002.

(l) "Practice of certified public accountancy" means performing or offering to perform attest or nonattest services for the public while using the designation "certified public accountant" or "CPA" in conjunction with these services. "Attest" and "nonattest" services shall have the meaning specified in K.S.A. 1-321 and amendments thereto.

(m) "Standards of the PCAOB" means the following, which are hereby adopted by reference:

(1) In "public company accounting oversight board bylaws and rules—rules—professional standards" as in effect on December 31, 2016, section 3, "auditing and related professional practice standards," part 1, "general requirements," and part 5, "ethics and independence";

(2) "auditing standards--reorganized," issued by the PCAOB as in effect on December 31, 2016; and

(3) "attestation standard no. 1" and "attestation standard no. 2," issued by the PCAOB as in effect on December 31, 2016.

(n) "Staff accountant" means a certified public accountant who meets the following requirements:

(1) Holds both a Kansas certificate and a Kansas permit;

(2) is an employee of a firm that is the certified public accountant's primary employer; and

(3) works at least 1,040 hours for the firm during a calendar year. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective Jan. 1, 1974; amended May 1, 1978; amended May 1, 1979; amended May 1, 1985; amended July 22, 1991; amended July 13, 1992; amended April 5, 1993; amended Aug. 23, 1993; amended Jan. 12, 1996; amended Jan. 8, 1999; amended Nov. 17, 2000; amended Nov. 2, 2001; amended May 27, 2005; amended May 19, 2006; amended Feb. 16, 2007; amended Jan. 11, 2008; amended May 29, 2009; amended Nov. 29, 2010; amended May 25, 2012; amended March 21, 2014; amended Feb. 19, 2016; amended Jan. 26, 2018; amended April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-2a. Definitions of terms in the AICPA code of professional conduct.** (a) The definitions of the terms in ET 0.400 of the AICPA "code of professional conduct," as adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2, shall be applicable wherever these terms are used in this article, including any document adopted by reference in this article.

(b) The term "member," as used in the AICPA "code of professional conduct," shall mean any certified public accountant, or firm. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective May 29, 2009; amended Feb. 19, 2016; amended April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-2b. Applicability of AICPA professional standards.** The AICPA professional standards shall apply to each certified public accountant or firm, as defined in K.A.R. 74-5-2, regardless of whether the person or entity is a member of the AICPA. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective Feb. 19, 2016; amended April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-101. Independence.** (a) Each certified public accountant or firm shall be independent in the performance of professional services as required by the following standards, as applicable:

- (1) The AICPA “code of professional conduct”, including the interpretations, as contained in the AICPA professional standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2(b)(5);
- (2) chapter three of the government auditing standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2;
- (3) the portions of regulation S-X codified at 17 C.F.R. 210.1-02 and 17 C.F.R. 210.2-01, as in effect on September 7, 2023, which are hereby adopted by reference; and
- (4) PCAOB rules, section 3, “professional standards,” part 5, “ethics,” as adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2.

(b) In determining whether a certified public accountant’s or a firm’s independence is impaired, any other circumstances, relationship, or activity that the board determines could impair independence may be considered by the board. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective Jan. 1, 1966; amended Jan. 1, 1972; amended Jan. 1, 1974; amended May 1, 1978; amended May 1, 1985; amended Nov. 15, 2002; amended May 27, 2005; amended May 19, 2006; amended Feb. 16, 2007; amended Jan. 11, 2008; amended May 29, 2009; amended Nov. 29, 2010; amended May 25, 2012; amended March 21, 2014; amended Feb. 19, 2016; amended April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-102. Integrity and objectivity.** (a) In the performance of professional services, each certified public accountant-or firm shall maintain objectivity and integrity, shall be free of conflicts of interest, and shall not knowingly misrepresent facts to others or subordinate the accountant’s or firm’s judgment to another’s judgment. In tax practice, any certified public accountant- or firm may resolve doubt in favor of the client if there is reasonable support for that position.

(b) Each certified public accountant or firm shall comply with the following applicable standards:

(1) AICPA “code of professional conduct,” including the interpretations, as contained in the AICPA professional standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2(b)(5), which shall be used in determining whether integrity and objectivity have been maintained;

(2) chapter three of the government auditing standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2; and

(3) PCAOB rules, section 3, “professional standards,” part 5, “ethics,” as adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2.

(Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective Jan. 1, 1966; amended Jan. 1, 1974; amended May 1, 1978; amended May 1, 1985; amended Nov. 15, 2002; amended May 27, 2005; amended May 19, 2006; amended May 29, 2009; amended Feb. 19, 2016; amended April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-103. Commissions and referral fees.** Each certified public accountant or firm shall comply with the AICPA “code of professional conduct” regarding commissions and referral fees, including the interpretations, as contained in the AICPA professional standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2(b)(5). (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective May 1, 1978; amended July 13, 1992; amended Jan. 12, 1996; amended Jan. 8, 1999; amended Sept. 10, 1999; amended May 27, 2005; amended May 29, 2009; amended Feb. 19, 2016.)

**74-5-104. Contingent fees.** Each certified public accountant or firm shall comply with the AICPA “code of professional conduct” regarding contingent fees, including the definitions and interpretations, as contained in the AICPA professional standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2(b)(5). (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective May 1, 1978; amended July 13, 1992; amended Jan. 8, 1999; amended Sept. 10, 1999; amended May 27, 2005; amended Feb. 19, 2016.)

**74-5-105.** Revoked Feb. 16, 2007.

## **Part II.—GENERAL STANDARDS, COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS, ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES**

**74-5-201. General standards.** (a) Each certified public accountant or firm shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Undertake only those professional services that the CPA or firm can reasonably expect to be completed with professional competence;
- (2) exercise due professional care in the performance of professional services;
- (3) adequately plan and supervise the performance of professional services; and
- (4) obtain sufficient relevant data to afford a reasonable basis for conclusions or recommendations in relation to any professional services performed.

(b) The AICPA “code of professional conduct” regarding general standards, including the interpretations as contained in the AICPA professional standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2, shall be used in determining whether there is compliance with the general standards. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective Jan. 1, 1966; amended Jan. 1,

1972; amended Jan. 1, 1974; amended May 1, 1978; amended May 1, 1985; amended May 27, 2005; amended Jan. 11, 2008; amended May 29, 2009; amended Feb. 19, 2016; amended April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-202. Compliance with standards.** (a) Each certified public accountant or firm that performs auditing, attestation, review, compilation, management consulting, tax, or other professional services shall comply with the applicable professional standards promulgated by the following entities, which are adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2 and this regulation:

- (1) The federal accounting standards advisory board;
- (2) the financial accounting standards board;
- (3) the governmental accounting standards board;
- (4) the PCAOB;
- (5) the international accounting standards board;
- (6) the municipal services team of the office of accounts and reports, Kansas department of administration;
- (7) the AICPA accounting and review services committee;
- (8) the AICPA auditing standards board;
- (9) the AICPA management consulting services executive committee;
- (10) the AICPA tax executive committee;
- (11) the AICPA forensic and valuation services executive committee;
- (12) the AICPA professional ethics executive committee;
- (13) the AICPA personal financial planning executive committee; and
- (14) the AICPA peer review board. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202 effective Jan. 1, 1966; amended Jan. 1, 1972; amended Jan. 1, 1974; amended May 1, 1978; amended, E-82-27, Dec. 22, 1981; amended May 1, 1982; amended May 1, 1985; amended May 1, 1986; amended May 1, 1987; amended May 1, 1988; amended May 22, 1989; amended Jan. 7, 1991; amended July 13, 1992; amended Aug. 23, 1993; amended Sept. 26, 1994; amended Jan. 12, 1996; amended Sept. 25, 1998; amended Sept. 10, 1999; amended Nov. 17, 2000; amended Nov. 2, 2001; amended Nov. 15, 2002; amended Nov. 14, 2003; amended May 27, 2005; amended May 19, 2006; amended Feb. 16, 2007; amended Jan. 11, 2008; amended May 29, 2009; amended Nov. 29, 2010; amended May 25, 2012; amended March 21, 2014; amended Feb. 19, 2016; amended Jan. 26, 2018; amended April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-203. Accounting principles.** Each certified public accountant or firm shall comply with the AICPA “code of professional conduct” regarding accounting principles, including the interpretations, as contained in the AICPA professional standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2(b)(5). (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective Jan. 1, 1966; amended Jan. 1, 1974; amended May 1, 1978; amended, E-82-27, Dec. 22, 1981; amended May 1, 1982; amended May 1, 1985; amended May 1, 1986; amended May 1, 1987; amended May 1, 1988; amended May 22, 1989; amended Jan. 7, 1991; amended July 13, 1992; amended Aug. 23, 1993; amended Sept. 26, 1994; amended Jan. 12, 1996; amended Sept. 25, 1998; amended Sept. 10, 1999; amended Nov. 17, 2000; amended May 27, 2005; amended May 19, 2006; amended Nov. 29, 2010; amended Feb. 19, 2016; amended April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-204.** (Revoked Jan. 11, 2008.)

**74-5-205.** (Revoked May 27, 2005.)

### **Part III.--RESPONSIBILITIES TO CLIENTS**

**74-5-301. Confidential client information.** (a) A certified public accountant or firm shall not disclose any confidential client information without the consent of the client.

(b) The AICPA “code of professional conduct,” including the interpretations as contained in the AICPA professional standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2(b)(5), shall be used by the board in determining compliance with subsection (a). (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective Jan. 1, 1966; amended Jan. 1, 1974; amended May 1, 1978; amended Sept. 25, 1998; amended May 27, 2005; amended May 29, 2009; amended Feb. 19, 2016; amended April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-302.** (Revoked May 25, 2012.)

### **Part IV.--OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRACTICES**

**74-5-401. Acts discreditable.** (a) A certified public accountant or firm shall not commit any act discreditable to the profession.

(b) The AICPA "code of professional conduct," including the interpretations of the AICPA professional standards-adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2(b)(5), shall be used by the board in determining whether a certified public accountant or firm has committed an act discreditable to the profession. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective Jan. 1, 1966; amended Jan. 1, 1972; amended Jan. 1, 1974; amended May 1, 1978; amended Nov. 15, 2002; amended May 27, 2005; amended May 29, 2009; amended Feb. 16, 2016.)

**74-5-402. Acting through others.** A certified public accountant shall not permit others to carry out on his or her behalf, either with or without compensation, acts which, if carried out by the certified public accountant, would place him or her in violation of the rules of conduct. (Authorized by K.S.A. 1-202; effective Jan. 1, 1966; amended Jan. 1, 1972; amended Jan. 1, 1974; amended May 1, 1978.)

**74-5-403. Advertising.** (a) A certified public accountant or firm shall not advertise in a manner that is false, misleading, or deceptive.

(b) The use of any non-CPA's name or the name of any firm not registered with the board as a firm, pursuant to K.S.A. 1-308 and K.S.A. 1-316 and amendments thereto, in any advertisement or publication in any medium or under any heading used for certified public accountants shall be prohibited.

(c) The AICPA "code of professional conduct," including the interpretations as contained in the AICPA professional standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2(b)(5), shall be used by the board in determining whether a certified public accountant has violated subsection (a). (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1-202; effective May 1, 1978; amended May 1, 1985; amended July 22, 1991; amended May 27, 2005; amended Feb. 16, 2007; amended May 29, 2009; amended Feb. 16, 2016.)

**74-5-404a. Use of CPA designation while performing non-attest services.** (a) A person who has a Kansas permit to practice as a certified public accountant may use the "certified public accountant" or "CPA" designation when performing non-attest services in an organization that is not required to register as a firm.

(b) Non-attest services shall mean those services set forth in K.S.A. 1-321 and amendments thereto. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2000 Supp. 1-202, as amended by 2001 HB 2343, § 7; effective Jan. 8, 1999; amended Nov. 2, 2001.)

**74-5-405.** (Revoked Jan. 26, 2018.)

**74-5-405a. Certified public accountants who own a separate business.** Each certified public accountant in the practice of certified public accountancy who owns an interest in a separate business shall comply with ET section 1.810.010, titled "ownership of separate business," of the AICPA "code of professional conduct," as contained in the AICPA professional standards adopted by reference in K.A.R. 74-5-2(b)(5). (Authorized by K.S.A. 1-202; implementing K.S.A. 1-202 and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 1-311; effective Jan. 11, 2008; amended May 29, 2009; amended Feb. 19, 2016.)

**74-5-406. Firm or professional names.** (a) A certified public accountant or firm shall not practice certified public accountancy under a firm or professional name or advertise a firm or professional name that includes descriptive words relating to the quality of services offered or that is misleading concerning the legal form or the persons who are owners, partners, officers, members, managers, or shareholders of the firm.

(b) A firm or professional name shall not be considered to be misleading solely because it contains words describing the geographical area in which the services are offered or words describing the type of services actually being performed by the certified public accountants who are owners, partners, officers, members, managers, or shareholders of the firm.

(c) A firm or professional name or designation shall be considered to be misleading in any of the following instances:

(1) The name contains a misrepresentation of facts.

(2) The name is intended or is likely to create false or unjustified expectations of favorable results.

(3) The name implies education, professional attainment, or licensing recognition of its owners, partners, officers, members, managers, or shareholders that is not supported by facts.

(4) The name of a Kansas professional corporation or association, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or general corporation does not include its full name as registered with the board each time the firm or professional name is used.

(5) The name misrepresents the number of partners, shareholders, owners, members, or staff accountants holding CPA certificates and permits who own or provide services on behalf of the firm or business.

(6) The name contains the name or names of one or more former partners, shareholders, or owners without their written consent.

(d) A fictitious firm or professional name shall be defined as a name that contains anything other than the name or names of one or more present or former owners, partners, members, or shareholders or the term “certified public accountant” or “CPA,” or the plural form of either of these two terms. A fictitious firm or professional name may be used if the name is registered with the board and is not false or misleading as determined by the board. Each firm shall utilize its full name as registered with the board each time the name is used.

(e) A fictitious firm or professional name shall be considered to be misleading if the name misrepresents the number of partners, shareholders, owners, members, or staff accountants holding CPA certificates and permits who own or provide services on behalf of the firm or business.

(f) Each certified public accountant or firm that falls out of compliance with this regulation due to any change in ownership or personnel shall notify the board within 30 days after the change. A reasonable period of time may be granted by the board for a firm or certified public accountant to take corrective action.

(g) If a firm does not have an office in Kansas but is required to register with the board pursuant to K.S.A. 1-308 and amendments thereto, the name shall not be considered misleading even if the name meets the criteria for being “misleading” as specified in paragraph (c)(5) subsection (e) of this regulation. (Authorized by K.S.A. 1-202; implementing K.S.A. 1-202 and K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 1-308; effective May 1, 1978; amended Oct. 8, 1990; amended Aug. 23, 1993; amended Jan. 12, 1996; amended Sept. 25, 1998; amended Sept. 10, 1999; amended Nov. 15, 2002; amended Jan. 11, 2008; amended May 29, 2009; amended March 21, 2014; amended Feb. 16, 2016; amended Jan. 26, 2018.)

**74-5-407.** (Revoked April 26, 2024.)

**74-5-408.** (Revoked April 26, 2024.)