



**Rules of
Department of Commerce and
Insurance**

**Division 2145—Missouri Board of Geologist Registration
Chapter 4—Code of Professional Conduct**

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**Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
Division 2145—Missouri Board of
Geologist Registration
Chapter 4—Code of Professional Conduct**

**20 CSR 2145-4.010 Obligations of the
Registrant**

PURPOSE: This rule defines the expectations and requirements for practicing geology as a registered geologist or geologist-registrant in-training.

(1) These rules of professional conduct are binding on every person registered by the board to practice geology as a registered geologist or geologist-registrant in-training. In these rules of professional conduct, the word registrant shall mean any person registered as a geologist or geologist-registrant in-training.

(2) By applying for or becoming a registered geologist or geologist-registrant in-training a person agrees to—

(A) Comply with and uphold the Code of Professional Conduct as defined in Chapter 4—Code of Professional Conduct; and

(B) Shall understand and be familiar with sections 256.450—256.483, RSMo, also known as the Geologist Registration Act.

(3) Registrants shall be guided by the highest standards of personal integrity and professional conduct and shall perform professional services or issue professional advice only within the scope of their education and experience and shall advise the employer or client if any professional advice is outside of their professional or personal expertise.

(4) Registrants shall observe and comply with the requirements and intent of all applicable laws, codes, and regulations.

(5) The rules of professional conduct will be enforced under the powers vested in the Missouri Board of Geologist Registration. Any act or practice found to be in violation of these rules of professional conduct will be grounds for a complaint to be filed with the Administrative Hearing Commission.

AUTHORITY: section 256.462.6., RSMo 1994. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 145-4.010. Emergency rule filed June 29, 1995, effective July 9, 1995, expired Nov. 5, 1995. Original rule filed Sept. 28, 1995, effective May 30, 1996. Moved to 20 CSR 2145-4.010, effective Aug. 28, 2006.*

**Original authority 1994.*

**20 CSR 2145-4.020 Obligations to the
Public**

PURPOSE: This rule defines the expectations and requirements for practicing geology as a registered geologist or geologist-registrant in-training.

(1) Registrants shall uphold the public health, safety, and welfare in the performance of professional services; avoid the appearance of impropriety; provide competent services according to overall professional and ethical obligations; and shall not give a professional opinion or submit a report without being thoroughly informed as might be reasonably expected, considering the purpose for which the opinion or report is requested.

(2) Registrants shall not knowingly participate in any illegal activities, or knowingly permit the publication of reports, maps, or other documents for any illegal purpose.

(3) A registrant shall not offer or make any illegal payment, gift, or other valuable consideration to a public official or accept any payment, gift, or other valuable consideration which would appear to influence a decision made on by the registrant acting in a position of public trust. A registrant acting in a position of public trust shall exercise his/her authority impartially, and shall not seek to use his/her authority for personal profit or to secure any competitive advantage.

AUTHORITY: section 256.462.6., RSMo 1994. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 145-4.020. Emergency rule filed June 29, 1995, effective July 9, 1995, expired Nov. 5, 1995. Original rule filed Sept. 28, 1995, effective May 30, 1996. Moved to 20 CSR 2145-4.020, effective Aug. 28, 2006.*

**Original authority 1994.*

**20 CSR 2145-4.030 Obligations to the
Employer or Client**

PURPOSE: This rule defines the expectations and requirements for practicing geology as a registered geologist or geologist-registrant in-training.

(1) Registrants shall not use their professional skills or licensed status in furtherance of or participation in any unlawful activity. Registrants, in the conduct of their practice, shall not knowingly violate any criminal laws.

(2) The registrant shall be accurate, truthful, and candid in all communications and shall not issue a false statement or false information which the registrant knows to be false or misleading, even though directed to do so by an employer, client or colleague.

(3) A registrant shall not knowingly engage in false or deceptive advertising, make false, misleading, or deceptive representations or claims in regard to the profession of geology or which concerns their professional qualifications or abilities or those of others or the client.

(4) A registrant shall disclose to a perspective employer or client the existence of any owned or controlled mineral or other interest which may, whether directly or indirectly, have a pertinent bearing on such employment. A registrant having or expecting to have a beneficial interest in a property on which the registrant reports shall state in the report the fact of the existence of such interest or expected interest.

(5) A registrant shall protect, to the fullest possible extent, the interest of an employer or client so far as is consistent with the public health, safety and welfare and shall not use the resources of an employer or client for private gain, without prior knowledge and consent of the employer or client.

(6) A registrant employed or retained by one (1) employer or client shall not accept, without that employer's or client's written consent, an engagement by another if the interests of the two (2) are in any manner conflicting.

(7) A registrant shall not accept referral fees from any person to whom an employer or client is referred; however nothing herein shall prohibit a registrant from being compensated by the employer or client for consultation, or for other services actually performed.

(8) A registrant shall not offer payment referral fees to any person who refers an employer or client to the registrant, however nothing herein shall prohibit a registrant from compensating the person giving the referral for consultation, or other services actually performed.

(9) A registrant shall not use, directly or indirectly, any confidential information obtained from or in the course of performing services for an employer or client in any way which is adverse or detrimental to the interests of the



employer or client, except with the prior consent of the employer or client or when disclosure is required by law.

(10) A registrant who has made an investigation for an employer or client shall not seek to profit economically from the information gained without written permission of employer or client, unless it is clear that there can no longer be a conflict of interest with the original employer or client.

(11) A registrant shall engage, or advise an employer or client to engage, and cooperate with other experts and specialists whenever it is in the best interest of the employer or client.

(12) A registrant shall provide services to an employer or client in a diligent and timely manner.

AUTHORITY: section 256.462.6, RSMo 2000. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 145-4.030. Emergency rule filed June 29, 1995, effective July 9, 1995, expired Nov. 5, 1995. Original rule filed Sept. 28, 1995, effective May 30, 1996. Moved to 20 CSR 2145-4.030, effective Aug. 28, 2006. Amended: Filed Nov. 7, 2007, effective May 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 256.462, RSMo 1994.*

20 CSR 2145-4.040 Obligations to Professional Colleagues and the Profession

PURPOSE: This rule defines the expectations and requirements for practicing geology as a registered geologist or geologist-registrant in-training.

(1) A registrant shall respect the rights, interests, professional status and contributions of professional colleagues.

(2) A registrant shall give due credit for work done by others in the course of a professional assignment, and shall not knowingly accept credit due another and shall not plagiarize another in oral and written communications or by using materials prepared by others without appropriate attribution.

(3) A registrant shall continually strive to improve the profession of geology, to include their knowledge and skills, and encourage dissemination of geologic knowledge.

(4) A registrant having knowledge of a violation of Chapter 256, RSMo, or any rule pro-

mulgated thereunder shall contact and shall supply the board with all available specifics and documentation of the violation.

AUTHORITY: section 256.462.6., RSMo 1994. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 145-4.040. Emergency rule filed June 29, 1995, effective July 9, 1995, expired Nov. 5, 1995. Original rule filed Sept. 28, 1995, effective May 30, 1996. Moved to 20 CSR 2145-4.040, effective Aug. 28, 2006.*

**Original authority 1994.*