

American Association of Tissue Banks

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*NON-TRANSPLANT CODE OF ETHICS*

The American Association of Tissue Banks is a professional organization dedicated to leadership, education, service, research, and integrity involving practices when interacting with professional colleagues and the public.

All members of the American Association of Tissue Banks pledge to adhere to the following Codes, Principles, and Good Faith Practices:

- We strongly support all types of voluntary tissue donation and informed choice. We offer public education to encourage informed decisions. We provide information regarding donation and we respect the decisions of donors and donor families.
- As stewards of the gifts of donation, we are responsible for acting in accordance with the wishes of donors and their families.
- We cooperate with colleagues to assure a coordinated approach in seeking and verifying any document of authorization or record of informed consent and obtaining information necessary to screen all potential donors.
- We honor and treat with respect the gifts of donated human tissue and strive to optimize use in order to advance medical education and research and improve the quality of patient care.
- We protect the confidentiality of donors *and* donor families, by releasing information only with proper authorization or as required to support public safety or legal obligations.
- We provide information to donor families about how their loved one's gifts of donation were used.
- We strive to provide and maintain the highest quality of service in accordance with current scientific knowledge, established standards of care, and advancing technologies.
- We share knowledge and advances that may improve the quality, safety, and effectiveness of donated tissue.
- We act with the highest level of integrity and commit to fair, just, equitable and legal standards of behavior in all relations with donor families, end users, other members of the Association, and the global community.
- We promote our programs and services in a manner that honors each donor and their bereaved family members and respects the gift of human tissue.

- To maintain public confidence in tissue banking, we assure that our relationships with healthcare professionals and our business partnerships are structured to reflect these values and the altruism on which donation is founded.
- We respond in times of need to help meet shortages of tissue *donation*.
- We promote AATB standards, accreditation, and certification of personnel.

All members of the American Association of Tissue Banks pledge to adhere to the following Ethical Principles:

- Prepare tissue in a manner that respects the expectation they will be used.
- Provide tissue that meets the medical needs of end users with reasonable valuable consideration recognized for services that reflects the cost of providing tissue that is safe and of high quality.
- Treat and distribute tissue in ways that maximize usefulness to the end user.

All members of the American Association of Tissue Banks pledge to the following Good Faith Practices when advertising services:

- Seek the cooperation of healthcare professionals in donation and preparation activities in a manner that will not diminish public confidence in donation.
- Consider carefully the public perception of the advertisement and avoid terms that cheapen the concept of the “gift of life”.
- Consider the impact of the advertisement on public confidence in tissue banking.
- Be truthful, provide accurate information, and avoid unfounded or misleading statements.
- Utilize the *Non-transplant Code of Ethics* of the AATB as a guideline, where appropriate.
- Emphasize community support for, and avoid advertisements that undermine community support of any type of tissue donation.

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