

Professional Responsibility Standards

The United States Probation Office for the District of Columbia (USPO) is part of a national system that is committed to excellence, integrity, goals, values, and professionalism. We are an organization that has a responsibility to positively impact the community and the lives of victims, defendants and offenders.

The USPO promotes the fair and just treatment of defendants and offenders throughout all phases of the system. We act with integrity and treat everyone with respect and dignity.

The United State Probation Office for the District of Columbia follows the Canons of the *Judicial Code of Conduct for all Judicial Employees*. These canons outline appropriate, ethical and professional behavior for judicial employees in performance of their duties, as well as outside activities in their personal life. In addition to the canons, probation office policy prohibits the disclosure of confidential information without prior authorization as well as the use of a staff member's position for personal gain or to exert abuse of authority over others.

All complaints of unethical behavior are taken seriously and will be thoroughly investigated. Complaints should describe as fully as possible the nature of the allegation, the name(s) of the individual(s) involved, date(s) of the alleged misconduct or wrongdoing, and any additional factual or verifiable supporting information available. If known, include others who may be aware of the wrongdoing. Individuals who report allegations are encouraged to provide their name and contact information to facilitate appropriate follow-up.

While the probation office will vigorously investigate all allegations of misconduct, false allegations against any staff member as retaliation, manipulation, intimidation, or for any other reason will not be tolerated. Any individual found to have made a materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation will be referred to the United States Attorney's Office for possible prosecution pursuant to 18 USC §1001, an offense punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent possible, including protecting the identity of the person submitting a complaint, unless disclosure becomes unavoidable during the course of the investigation. If you believe you have been a victim or subjected to unethical behavior by any probation staff, please contact the Chief Probation Officer at 202-565-1336.