

Chapter 16 Lecture Notes Professional Stature

16-1 Contents

If you ask a surveyor if he or she is a professional, they will undoubtedly, believe, espouse and identify themselves as such! This chapter attempts to answer the question of what a professional is and what the conduct of a professional should be!

- What is a professional?
- Do they look, act and behave differently than other people?
- Why are civil engineers considered more of a professional than surveyors?

16-2 Definition of a professional

Historically professions were doctors, lawyers and clergy...today they include athletes, educators, engineers, business people and any one willing to place "professional" in front of their name!

The term profession is employed as referring to a calling in which one "professes" to have acquired some special knowledge, skills and abilities to serve others by guiding, advising, and instructing.

See the third definition of Professional on top of page 465.

16-3 Attaining Professional Stature

Principle 1

16-4 Attributes of a Professional

See the 10 attributes listed on page 468

16-5 Superior Education in a Field of Knowledge

Principle 2

Education is not the only way to obtain knowledge

Since 1999 Florida has required a four year degree to sit for the PLS.

16-6 Position of Trust

Use your knowledge to aid, assist, teach, and benefit others. The call of duty beyond the fee and self-interests.

Generally professionals are delegated an exclusive franchise for the purpose of protecting the public from the unqualified.

The surveyor must protect all parties, but the contractual obligations are to the client.

16-7 Gaining Eminence

Earned through superior ability to apply knowledge for the benefit of others. Not from the ability to earn money or notoriety of publicity.

All the knowledge in the world is of little value unless a person is willing to share, convey, and apply that knowledge to others.

16-8 Independent Judgment and Liability

The layperson seeks out the help of the professional to assist in the solving of their problems...the professional uses their ability to apply sound judgment, knowledge, skills and abilities to service the layperson.

Because we charge a fee for our services and because as a professional, by definition, we have superior knowledge, we take on the liability to apply it properly!

16-9 Services to Those Unable to Pay

Professionals are considered to have a moral duty to all regardless of their ability to pay...seldom do surveyors

take on that obligation...if you can't pay today the survey can wait until tomorrow!

16-10 Fees

Suitable fee charged commensurate with the service provided. So how does the statement, "You get what you pay for" fit in?

Fees should be based on the complexity of the situation not on the physical labor, materials and time! Tell that to the client!

16-11 Ethics

See the definition of Ethics on page 471

The proof of observance of ethics lies in the integrity as seen by the public, clients and associates in the profession.

16-12 Surveyor's Obligations to the Public

Principle 3

16-13 Monumenting Boundaries

Each line has two owners...care should be given that it is placed where it belongs regardless of who is paying...

16-14 Aiding Unauthorized Surveying Practice

Principle 4

16-16 Qualifications of Surveyors

Professional Boards for exams, investigations and licensing

16-17 Surveyors of Questionable Capabilities

Who sits for the exam and who doesn't...?

16-18 Surveyor's Obligation to the Client

You assist your client in an advisable capacity...do what's correct regardless of their wants and needs...educate them, assist them, and communicate to them all that is appropriate to the obligations set forth in your contract.

16-19 Surveyor's Obligations to Other Surveyor's and the Profession

Professional courtesy

Service to the Profession

16-20 Professional Reputation

Principle 5

16-21 Employment

All's fair in love, war, and business!

16-22 Discovered Errors

Principle 6

16-23 Review Another's Work

Principle 7

16-24 Discredit to the Profession

Principle 8

16-25 Fees

Principles 9 and 10

See the five considerations in determining fees on page 476. All five should be taken into consideration and no single consideration should be taken alone.

16-26 Advertising

16-27 Ethical and Professional Standards

Principles 11 and 12

16-12 Professional Standing of Surveyors

What someone thinks about himself or herself is not proof of that thought...the actions, behavior and reputation is what determines the stature of the surveyor.

Professional stature can never be attained by self-proclamation, it must be earned! Others must bestow the title.