



Missing In America Network

Preferred Investigator Standard & Code of Ethics

Our Commitment

Families of missing persons are often navigating one of the most difficult experiences of their lives. They deserve to work with professionals who demonstrate integrity, compassion, transparency, and respect.

The **Missing In America Network Preferred Investigator Program** recognizes licensed private investigators who share our commitment to serving families ethically and professionally. Participation in this program is voluntary. By signing this document, I agree to uphold the following standards while participating as a **Missing In America Network Preferred Investigator**.

1. Compassion First

I will treat every missing person and every family member with dignity, empathy, patience, and respect.

I recognize that families may be experiencing trauma, grief, fear, frustration, and uncertainty, and I will communicate with compassion throughout the investigative process.

I will never exploit a family's emotional circumstances for financial gain.

2. Professional Integrity

I will conduct all investigations honestly, ethically, and within the laws governing my jurisdiction.

I will accurately represent my qualifications, experience, and investigative findings.

I will immediately disclose any conflicts of interest that could affect my ability to provide impartial services.

3. Transparency

Before accepting a case, I will provide clear information regarding:

- Scope of services
- Fees and billing practices
- Retainer requirements
- Estimated costs when possible
- Communication expectations
- Any known limitations of the investigation

Families deserve to understand exactly what services they are receiving.

4. No False Promises

I acknowledge that no investigator can guarantee:

- A missing person will be located
- A case will be solved
- A particular investigative outcome

I will never knowingly create unrealistic expectations or make promises I cannot fulfill.

5. Respect for Law Enforcement

I recognize the important role of law enforcement in missing person investigations.

When appropriate and lawful, I will encourage collaboration with law enforcement and will avoid actions that could interfere with an active investigation or compromise evidence.

6. Family-Centered Collaboration

I understand that successful missing person investigations often involve cooperation among families, advocates, law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, search teams, and other professionals.

When authorized by my client, I will work collaboratively with Missing In America Network and other appropriate partners to support the family's search efforts.

I agree to:

- Maintain professional communication with families and designated advocates.
- Coordinate efforts when appropriate to avoid duplication or confusion.
- Share non-confidential information that may assist Missing In America Network in awareness campaigns or family support.
- Respect the roles and expertise of other professionals involved in the case.
- Place the best interests of the missing person and their family above personal recognition or competition.

7. Confidentiality

I will protect confidential information entrusted to me. I will not disclose sensitive investigative information without authorization unless required by law.

I understand that confidentiality extends beyond the completion of an investigation.



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8. Professional Communication

I will communicate honestly and respectfully with my clients.

I will:

- Respond within a reasonable timeframe.
- Provide updates when appropriate.
- Clearly explain investigative limitations.
- Be honest when there are no new developments.

Families deserve consistent, respectful communication.

9. Ethical Investigative Practices

I will not engage in unlawful or unethical investigative practices, including but not limited to:

- Harassment
- Intimidation
- Illegal surveillance
- Evidence tampering
- Misrepresentation
- Unauthorized access to records
- Any activity prohibited by law

10. Respect for Missing Persons and Their Families

Every missing person deserves dignity and respect. If a missing person is located, I will respect their legal rights, privacy, and safety while balancing the legitimate interests of their family and applicable laws.

I recognize that every case has unique circumstances and will approach each situation with professionalism and compassion.

11. Commitment to Professional Excellence

I agree to:

- Maintain all required professional licenses.
- Comply with applicable state licensing requirements.
- Maintain any required insurance or bonding.
- Continue developing my investigative knowledge and skills.

12. Commitment to Missing In America Families

As a Preferred Investigator, I agree to provide a complimentary initial consultation and one or more of the following benefits to families referred by Missing In America Network whenever reasonably possible.

These may include:

- ☐ Discounted hourly rate
- ☐ Reduced retainer
- ☐ Flexible payment options
- ☐ Pro bono services in select cases

I understand this commitment reflects the mission of Missing In America Network to make professional investigative resources more accessible to families.

13. Representation of the Program

While participating in the Missing In America Network Preferred Investigator Program, I understand that my conduct reflects upon both my professional reputation and the reputation of Missing In America Network.

I agree to conduct myself professionally in all interactions with families, law enforcement, volunteers, partner organizations, the media, and the public.

Removal from the Program

Missing In America Network reserves the right to suspend or remove an investigator from the Preferred Investigator Program if credible information demonstrates:

- Loss, suspension, or expiration of required licensure
- Unethical or illegal conduct
- Misrepresentation of qualifications or credentials
- Predatory, deceptive, or unfair billing practices
- Failure to uphold these Standards & Code of Ethics
- Repeated substantiated complaints regarding professionalism or conduct
- Conduct that is inconsistent with the mission or values of Missing In America Network

Participation in the Preferred Investigator Program is a privilege and may be revoked at the discretion of Missing In America Network.



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Investigator Acknowledgment

I certify that I have read and understand the **Missing In America Network Preferred Investigator Standards & Code of Ethics.**

By signing below, I voluntarily agree to uphold these standards while participating in the Missing In America Network Preferred Investigator Program.

I understand that acceptance into the program is at the sole discretion of Missing In America Network and that participation may be suspended or revoked if I fail to uphold these standards.

Investigator Name: _____

Agency: _____

State License Number: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____