

CHAPTER 4  
RULES OF CONDUCT

[Prior to 7/13/88, see Architectural Examiners, Board of[80]]

**193B—4.1(544A,17A) Rules of conduct.** Failure by a registrant to adhere to the provisions of Iowa Code sections 272C.10 and 544A.13 and the following rules of conduct shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

**4.1(1) Definitions.** The following definition applies as used in Iowa Code chapter 544A and this chapter of the architectural examining board rules, unless the context otherwise requires.

*“Responsible charge”* means the amount of control over and detailed professional knowledge of the content of technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by a registered architect applying the required professional standard of care, including but not limited to an architect’s integration of information from manufacturers, suppliers, installers; the architect’s consultants, owners, contractors; or other sources the architect reasonably trusts that is incidental to and intended to be incorporated into the architect’s technical submissions if the architect has coordinated and reviewed such information. Other review, or review and correction, of technical submissions after they have been prepared by others does not constitute the exercise of responsible charge because the reviewer has neither control over nor detailed professional knowledge of the content of such submissions throughout their preparation.

**4.1(2) Competence.**

*a.* In practicing architecture, an architect shall act with reasonable care and competence, and shall apply the technical knowledge and skill which is ordinarily applied by architects of good standing, practicing in the same locality.

*b.* In designing a project, an architect shall take into account all applicable state and municipal building laws and regulations. While an architect may rely on the advice of other professionals (e.g., attorneys, engineers and other qualified persons) as to the intent and meaning of such laws and regulations, once having obtained such advice, an architect shall not knowingly design a project in violation of these laws and regulations.

*c.* An architect shall undertake to perform professional services only when the architect, together with those whom the architect may engage as consultants, is qualified by education, training and experience in the specific technical areas involved.

*d.* No person shall be permitted to practice architecture if, in the board’s judgment upon receipt of medical testimony or evidence, the person’s professional competence is substantially impaired by physical or mental disabilities.

**4.1(3) Conflict of interest.**

*a.* An architect shall not accept compensation for services from more than one party on a project unless the circumstances are fully disclosed to and agreed to (such disclosures and agreement to be in writing) by all interested parties.

*b.* If an architect has any business association or direct or indirect financial interest which is substantial enough to influence the architect’s judgment in connection with the architect’s performance of professional services, the architect shall fully disclose, in writing, to the client or employer the nature of the business association or financial interest, and if the client or employer objects to the association or financial interest, the architect will either terminate such association or interest or offer to give up the commission or employment.

*c.* An architect shall not solicit or accept compensation from material or equipment suppliers in return for specifying or endorsing the products.

*d.* When acting as the interpreter of building contract documents and the judge of contract performance, an architect shall render decisions impartially, favoring neither party to the contract.

**4.1(4) Full disclosure.**

*a.* An architect, making public statements on architectural questions, shall disclose when compensation is being received for making the statements.

b. An architect shall accurately represent to a prospective or existing client or employer the architect's qualifications, capabilities, and experience and the scope of the architect's responsibility in connection with work for which the architect is claiming credit.

c. If, in the course of work on a project, an architect becomes aware of a decision taken by the employer or client against the architect's advice which violates applicable state or municipal building laws and regulations and which will, in the architect's judgment, adversely affect the safety to the public of the finished project, the architect shall:

1. Report the decision to the local building inspector or other public official charged with enforcement of the applicable state or municipal building laws and regulations,

2. Refuse to consent to the decisions, and

3. In circumstances where the architect reasonably believes that other decisions will be taken, notwithstanding the architect's objection, terminate the architect's services with reference to the project.

d. An architect shall not deliberately make a materially false statement or deliberately fail to disclose a material fact requested in connection with application for registration or renewal of registration.

e. An architect shall not assist the application for registration of a person known by the architect to be unqualified in respect to education, training, experience or character.

f. An architect possessing knowledge of a violation of these rules by another architect shall report the knowledge to the board.

**4.1(5) Compliance with laws.**

a. An architect shall not, in the conduct of architectural practice, knowingly violate any state or federal criminal law. A "conviction" for purposes of this paragraph and Iowa Code section 544A.13 means a conviction for an indictable offense and includes the court's acceptance of a guilty plea, a deferred judgment from the time of entry of the deferred judgment until the time the defendant is discharged by the court without entry of judgment, or other finding of guilt by a court of competent jurisdiction. A copy of the record of conviction, guilty plea, deferred judgment, or other finding of guilt is conclusive evidence. A registered architect shall notify the board of a conviction within 30 days of the conviction.

b. An architect shall neither offer nor make any payment or gift to a government official (whether elected or appointed) with the intent of influencing the official's judgment in connection with a prospective or existing project in which the architect is interested.

c. An architect shall comply with the registration laws and regulations governing the architect's professional practice in any United States jurisdiction.

d. An Iowa-registered architect shall report to the board in writing any revocation, suspension, or other disciplinary action taken by a licensing authority in any other state or jurisdiction within 30 days of the final action.

**4.1(6) Professional conduct.**

a. Each office engaged in the practice of architecture shall have an architect resident regularly employed in that office having responsible charge of such work.

b. An architect shall not sign or seal drawings, specifications, reports or other professional work for which the architect does not have direct professional knowledge and direct supervisory control; provided, however, that in the case of the portions of professional work prepared by the architect's consultants, registered under this or another professional registration law of this jurisdiction, the architect may sign or seal that portion of the professional work if the architect has reviewed that portion, has coordinated its preparation and intends to be responsible for its adequacy.

c. An architect shall neither offer nor make any gifts to any public official with the intent of influencing the official's judgment in connection with a project in which the architect is interested. Nothing in this rule shall prohibit an architect from providing architectural services as a charitable contribution.

d. An architect shall not engage in conduct involving fraud or wanton disregard of the rights of others.

**4.1(7) Seal and certificate of responsibility.**

a. Each architect shall procure a seal with which to identify all technical submissions issued by the architect for use in Iowa as provided in Iowa Code section 544A.28.

b. Description of seal: The diameter of the outside circle shall be approximately 1¾ inches. The seal shall include the name of the registered architect and the words “Registered Architect”. The Iowa registration number and the word “Iowa” shall be included. The seal shall substantially conform to the samples shown below:



c. A legible rubber stamp, electronic image or other facsimile of the seal may be used.

d. Each technical submission submitted to a client or any public agency, hereinafter referred to as the official copy, shall contain an information block on its first page or on an attached cover sheet with application of a seal by the architect in responsible charge and an information block with application of a seal by each professional consultant contributing to the technical submission. The seal and original signature shall be applied only to a final technical submission. Each official copy of a technical submission shall be stapled, bound or otherwise attached together so as to clearly establish the complete extent of the technical submission. Each information block shall display the seal of the individual responsible for that portion of the technical submission. The area of responsibility for each sealing professional shall be designated in the area provided in the information block, so that responsibility for the entire technical submission is clearly established by the combination of the stated seal responsibilities. The information block will substantially conform to the sample shown below:

S E A L	<p>I hereby certify that the portion of this technical submission described below was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and responsible charge. I am a duly registered architect under the laws of the state of Iowa.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature <span style="float: right;">Date</span></p> <hr/> <p>Printed or typed name _____</p> <p>License number _____</p> <p>My license renewal date is June 30, _____.</p> <p>Pages or sheets covered by this seal: _____</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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*e.* The information requested in each information block must be typed or legibly printed in permanent ink or a secure electronic signature. An electronic signature as defined in or governed by Iowa Code chapter 554D meets the signature requirements of this rule if it is protected by a security procedure, as defined in Iowa Code section 554D.103(14), such as digital signature technology. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure, prior to affixing an electronic signature to a technical submission, that security procedures are adequate to (1) verify that the signature is that of a specific person and (2) detect any changes that may be made or attempted after the signature of the specific person is affixed. The seal implies responsibility for the entire technical submission unless the area of responsibility is clearly identified in the information accompanying the seal.

*f.* It shall be the responsibility of the architect who signed the original submission to forward copies of all changes and amendments to the technical submission, which shall become a part of the official copy of the technical submission, to the public official charged with the enforcement of the state, county, or municipal building code.

*g.* An architect is responsible for the custody and proper use of the seal. Improper use of the seal shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

*h.* The seal appearing on any technical submission shall be prima facie evidence that said technical submission was prepared by or under the responsible charge of the individual named on that seal.

**4.1(8) Communications.** An architect shall, when requested, respond to communications from the board within 30 days of the mailing of such communication by certified mail. Failure to respond to such communication may be grounds for disciplinary action against the architect.

**4.1(9) Architectural Experience Program supervisor.** The Architectural Experience Program supervisor, formerly known as the Intern Development Program supervisor, shall not fail to respond to a request to verify experience hours reported to the National Council of Architectural Registration Board's Architectural Experience Program when requested by NCARB, the board, or a subordinate, associate, or intern who is, or has been, supervised by the Architectural Experience Program supervisor.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A and 544A.  
[ARC 9359B, IAB 2/9/11, effective 3/16/11; ARC 3141C, IAB 6/21/17, effective 7/26/17]

**193B—4.2(272C) Impaired licensee review committee.** Rescinded IAB 10/3/01, effective 11/7/01.

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