



Certified Professional  
Soil Scientist

# SSSA Soils Certifying Board

## Code of Ethics

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### Article I. Preamble

1. The privilege of professional practice imposes obligations of responsibility as well as professional knowledge. The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) certifies the credentials of individuals through the Soils Certifying Board, which is the national soil science certification board. Individuals who meet the requirements for soil science certification will receive the designation of Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) or Certified Professional Soil Classifier (CPSC). The soil science certification program will only award the title of CPSS/CPSC to individuals who have met the examination, education, experience and ethics requirements as set forth by the SSSA Soils Certifying Board.
2. The Soils Certifying Board will award the title of CPSS to individuals who meet the college education, experience, testing requirements, ethics and the continuing education requirements of the Soils Certifying Board. CPSC was no longer issued after 2011. Existing CPSC still apply.
3. A CPSS/CPSC, at the request of a client or employer, must disclose the information used to gain certification. CPSS/CPSC who knowingly misrepresents their credentials will face disciplinary action.

### Article II. Relation of Professional to the Public

1. A CPSS/CPSC shall avoid and discourage sensational, exaggerated, and/or unwarranted statements that might induce participation in unsound enterprises.
2. A CPSS/CPSC shall not give professional opinion or make a recommendation without being as thoroughly informed as might reasonably be expected considering the purpose for which the opinion or recommendation is desired, and the degree of completeness of information upon which the opinion is based should be made clear.
3. A CPSS/CPSC shall not issue a false statement or false information even though directed to do so by employer or client.

### Article III. Relation of Professional to Employer and Client

1. A CPSS/CPSC shall protect, to the fullest extent possible, the interest of his/her employer or client insofar as such interest is consistent with the law and professional obligations and ethics.
2. A CPSS/CPSC who finds that obligations to their employer or client conflict with their professional obligation or ethics should work to have such objectionable conditions corrected.
3. A CPSS/CPSC shall not use, directly or indirectly, an employer's or client's information in any way that would violate the confidence of the employer or client.

4. CPSS/CPSC retained by one client shall not accept, without the client's written consent, an engagement by another if the interests of the two are in any manner conflicting.
5. A CPSS/CPSC who has made an investigation for any employer or client shall not seek to profit economically from the information gained, unless written permission to do so is granted or until it is clear that there can no longer be a conflict of interest with the original employer or client.
6. A CPSS/CPSC shall not divulge information given in confidence.
7. A CPSS/CPSC shall engage, or advise employer or client to engage, and cooperate with other experts and specialists.
8. A CPSS/CPSC protects the interests of a client by recommending only products and services that are in the best interest of the client and public.
9. A CPSS/CPSC protects his/her credibility by disclosing to clients how he/she will be compensated for providing recommendations to the client.

### Article IV. Relation of Professionals to Each Other

1. A CPSS/CPSC shall not falsely or maliciously attempt to injure the reputation of another person or organization.
2. A CPSS/CPSC shall freely give credit for work done by others, to whom the credit is due, and shall refrain from plagiarism of oral and written communications and shall not knowingly accept credit rightfully due another person.
3. A CPSS/CPSC shall not use the advantage of public employment (i.e., university, government) to compete unfairly with other certified professions.
4. A CPSS/CPSC shall endeavor to cooperate with others in the profession and encourage the ethical dissemination of technical knowledge.

### Article V. Duty to the Profession

1. A CPSS/CPSC shall aid in exclusion from certification those who have not followed this Code of Ethics or who do not have the required education and experience.
2. A CPSS/CPSC shall uphold this Code of Ethics by precept and example and encourage, by counsel and advice, other Registrants to do the same.
3. A CPSS/CPSC having positive knowledge of deviation from this Code by another Registrant shall bring such deviation to the attention of the Soils Certifying Board.