

Bethany Christian Services Fundraising Guidelines and Practices

Bethany Christian Services (Bethany) is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and complies in every manner with their ethical standards and expectations.

ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS ETHICAL PRINCIPLES (from <https://afpglobal.org/ethicsmain/code-ethical-standards>) - Use content amended October 2014 - updated

ETHICAL STANDARDS - *Adopted 1964; amended October 2014*

The Association of Fundraising Professionals believes that ethical behavior fosters the development and growth of fundraising professionals and the fundraising profession and enhances philanthropy and volunteerism. AFP Members recognize their responsibility to ethically generate or support ethical generation of philanthropic support. Violation of the standards may subject the member to disciplinary sanctions as provided in the AFP Ethics Enforcement Procedures. AFP members, both individual and business, agree to abide (and ensure, to the best of their ability, that all members of the staff abide) by the AFP standards.

Member Obligations:

1. Not engage in activities that harm the members' organizations, clients or profession or knowingly bring the profession into disrepute.
2. Not engage in activities that conflict with their fiduciary, ethical and legal obligations to their organizations, clients or profession.
3. Effectively disclose all potential and actual conflicts of interest; such disclosure does not preclude or imply ethical impropriety.
4. Not exploit any relationship with a donor, prospect, volunteer, client or employee for the benefit of the members or the members' organizations.
5. Comply with all applicable local, state, provincial and federal civil and criminal laws.
6. Recognize their individual boundaries of professional competence.
7. Present and supply products and/or services honestly and without misrepresentation.
8. Establish the nature and purpose of any contractual relationship at the outset and be responsive and available to parties before, during and after any sale of materials and/or services.
9. Never knowingly infringe the intellectual property rights of other parties.
10. Protect the confidentiality of all privileged information relating to the provider/client relationships.
11. Never disparage competitors untruthfully.

Solicitation and Use of Philanthropic Funds

12. Ensure that all solicitation and communication materials are accurate and correctly reflect their organization's mission and use of solicited funds.
13. Ensure that donors receive informed, accurate and ethical advice about the value and tax implications of contributions.
14. Ensure that contributions are used in accordance with donors' intentions.
15. Ensure proper stewardship of all revenue sources, including timely reports on the use and management of such funds.
16. Obtain explicit consent by donors before altering the conditions of financial transactions.

Presentation of Information

17. Not disclose privileged or confidential information to unauthorized parties.
18. Adhere to the principle that all donor and prospect information created by, or on behalf of, an organization or a client is the property of that organization or client.
19. Give donors and clients the opportunity to have their names removed from lists that are sold to, rented to, or exchanged with other organizations.* See [Donor Confidentiality Policy](#).
20. When stating fundraising results, use accurate and consistent accounting methods that conform to the relevant guidelines adopted by the appropriate authority.

Compensation and Contracts

21. Not accept compensation or enter into a contract that is based on a percentage of contributions; nor shall members accept finder's fees or contingent fees.
22. Be permitted to accept performance-based compensation, such as bonuses, only if such bonuses are in accord with prevailing practices within the members' own organizations and are not based on a percentage of contributions.
23. Neither offer nor accept payments or special considerations for the purpose of influencing the selection of products or services.
24. Not pay finder's fees, commissions or percentage compensation based on contributions.
25. Meet the legal requirements for the disbursement of funds if they receive funds on behalf of a donor or client.

Bethany's [Donor Confidentiality Policy](#) prohibits selling donor names, but information may be shared with data co-ops for the purpose of growing the donor base with approval from Bethany leadership and corporate board.

COA: GOV; RPM 1; FIN 7

References:

Association of Fundraising Professionals: <http://www.afpnet.org/>

APPROVED: 04/15/2008 by National Board Advancement Committee

Approved/Revised: 04/03/2012 by Senior Executive Team

Revised/Approved: 10/5/2015 by the Senior Executive Team

Approved: 08/07/2020 by the Senior Executive Team