



THE AMERICAN REGISTRY
OF RADIOLOGIC
TECHNOLOGISTS®

Last Revised: September 1, 2018
Published: September 1, 2018

PREAMBLE

The *Standards of Ethics* of The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) shall apply solely to persons holding certificates from ARRT that are either currently certified and registered by ARRT or that were formerly certified and registered by ARRT (collectively, "Certificate Holders"), and to persons applying for certification and registration by ARRT in order to become Certificate Holders ("Candidates"). Radiologic Technology is an umbrella term that is inclusive of the disciplines of radiography, nuclear medicine technology, radiation therapy, cardiovascular-interventional radiography, mammography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, quality management, sonography, bone densitometry, vascular sonography, cardiac-interventional radiography, vascular-interventional radiography, breast sonography, and radiologist assistant. The *Standards of Ethics* are intended to be consistent with the Mission Statement of ARRT, and to promote the goals set forth in the Mission Statement.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the ethics requirements is to identify individuals who have internalized a set of professional values that cause one to act in the best interests of patients. This internalization of professional values and the resulting behavior is one element of ARRT's definition of what it means to be qualified. Exhibiting certain behaviors as documented in the *Standards of Ethics* is evidence of the possible lack of appropriate professional values.

The *Standards of Ethics* provides proactive guidance on what it means to be qualified and to motivate and promote a culture of ethical behavior within the profession. The ethics requirements support ARRT's mission of promoting high standards of patient care by removing or restricting the use of the credential by those who exhibit behavior inconsistent with the requirements.

A. CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics forms the first part of the *Standards of Ethics*. The Code of Ethics shall serve as a guide by which Certificate Holders and Candidates may evaluate their professional conduct as it relates to patients, healthcare consumers, employers, colleagues, and other members of the healthcare team. The Code of Ethics is intended to assist Certificate Holders and Candidates in maintaining a high level of ethical conduct and in providing for the protection, safety, and comfort of patients. The Code of Ethics is aspirational.

1. The radiologic technologist acts in a professional manner, responds to patient needs, and supports colleagues and associates in providing quality patient care.
2. The radiologic technologist acts to advance the principal objective of the profession to provide services to humanity with full respect for the dignity of mankind.
3. The radiologic technologist delivers patient care and service unrestricted by the concerns of personal attributes or the nature of the disease or illness, and without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, age, or any other legally protected basis.
4. The radiologic technologist practices technology founded upon theoretical knowledge and concepts, uses equipment and accessories consistent with the purposes for which they were designed, and employs procedures and techniques appropriately.
5. The radiologic technologist assesses situations; exercises care, discretion, and judgment; assumes responsibility for professional decisions; and acts in the best interest of the patient.
6. The radiologic technologist acts as an agent through observation and communication to obtain pertinent information for the physician to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of the patient and recognizes that interpretation and diagnosis are outside the scope of practice for the profession.
7. The radiologic technologist uses equipment and accessories, employs techniques and procedures, performs services in accordance with an accepted standard of practice, and demonstrates expertise in minimizing radiation exposure to the patient, self, and other members of the healthcare team.
8. The radiologic technologist practices ethical conduct appropriate to the profession and protects the patient's right to quality radiologic technology care.
9. The radiologic technologist respects confidences entrusted in the course of professional practice, respects the patient's right to privacy, and reveals confidential information only as required by law or to protect the welfare of the individual or the community.
10. The radiologic technologist continually strives to improve knowledge and skills by participating in continuing education and professional activities, sharing knowledge with colleagues, and investigating new aspects of professional practice.
11. The radiologic technologist refrains from the use of illegal drugs and/or any legally controlled substances which result in impairment of professional judgment and/or ability to practice radiologic technology with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

ARRT STANDARDS OF ETHICS

B. RULES OF ETHICS

The Rules of Ethics form the second part of the *Standards of Ethics*. They are mandatory standards of minimally acceptable professional conduct for all Certificate Holders and Candidates. Certification and registration are methods of assuring the medical community and the public that an individual is qualified to practice within the profession. Because the public relies on certificates and registrations issued by ARRT, it is essential that Certificate Holders and Candidates act consistently with these Rules of Ethics. These Rules of Ethics are intended to promote the protection, safety, and comfort of patients.

The Rules of Ethics are enforceable. R.T.s are required to notify ARRT of any ethics violation, including state licensing issues and criminal charges and convictions, within 30 days of the occurrence or during their annual renewal of certification and registration, whichever comes first. Applicants for certification and registration are required to notify ARRT of any ethics violation, including state licensing issues and criminal charges and convictions, within 30 days of the occurrence.

Certificate Holders and Candidates engaging in any of the following conduct or activities, or who permit the occurrence of the following conduct or activities with respect to them, have violated the Rules of Ethics and are subject to sanctions as described hereunder:

The titles and headings are for convenience only, and shall not be used to limit, alter or interpret the language of any Rule.

Fraud or Deceptive Practices

Fraud Involving Certification and Registration

1. Employing fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure, maintain, renew, or obtain or reinstate certification and registration as issued by ARRT; employment in radiologic technology; or a state permit, license, or registration certificate to practice radiologic technology. This includes altering in any respect any document issued by ARRT or any state or federal agency, or by indicating in writing certification and registration with ARRT when that is not the case.

Fraudulent Communication Regarding Credentials

2. Engaging in false, fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading communications to any person regarding any individual's education, training, credentials, experience, or qualifications, or the status of any individual's state permit, license, or registration certificate in radiologic technology or certificate of registration with ARRT.

Fraudulent Billing Practices

3. Knowingly engaging or assisting any person to engage in, or otherwise participating in, abusive or fraudulent billing practices, including violations of federal Medicare and Medicaid laws or state medical assistance laws.

Subversion

Examination / CQR Subversion

4. Subverting or attempting to subvert ARRT's examination process, and/or the structured self-assessments that are

part of the Continuing Qualifications Requirements (CQR) process. Conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert ARRT's examination and/or CQR assessment process includes, but is not limited to:

- (i) disclosing examination and/or CQR assessment information using language that is substantially similar to that used in questions and/or answers from ARRT examinations and/or CQR assessments when such information is gained as a direct result of having been an examinee or a participant in a CQR assessment or having communicated with an examinee or a CQR participant; this includes, but is not limited to, disclosures to students in educational programs, graduates of educational programs, educators, anyone else involved in the preparation of Candidates to sit for the examinations, or CQR participants; and/or
- (ii) soliciting and/or receiving examination and/or CQR assessment information that uses language that is substantially similar to that used in questions and/or answers on ARRT examinations or CQR assessments from an examinee, or a CQR participant, whether requested or not; and/or
- (iii) copying, publishing, reconstructing (whether by memory or otherwise), reproducing or transmitting any portion of examination and/or CQR assessment materials by any means, verbal or written, electronic or mechanical, without the prior express written permission of ARRT or using professional, paid or repeat examination takers and/or CQR assessment participants, or any other individual for the purpose of reconstructing any portion of examination and/or CQR assessment materials; and/or
- (iv) using or purporting to use any portion of examination and/or CQR assessment materials that were obtained improperly or without authorization for the purpose of instructing or preparing any Candidate for examination or participant for CQR assessment; and/or
- (v) selling or offering to sell, buying or offering to buy, or distributing or offering to distribute any portion of examination and/or CQR assessment materials without authorization; and/or
- (vi) removing or attempting to remove examination and/or CQR assessment materials from an examination or assessment room; and/or
- (vii) having unauthorized possession of any portion of or information concerning a future, current, or previously administered examination or CQR assessment of ARRT; and/or
- (viii) disclosing what purports to be, or what you claim to be, or under all circumstances is likely to be understood by the recipient as, any portion of or "inside" information concerning any portion of a future, current, or previously administered examination or CQR assessment of ARRT; and/or
- (ix) communicating with another individual during administration of the examination or CQR assessment for the purpose of giving or receiving help in answering examination or CQR assessment questions, copying another Candidate's, or CQR participant's answers, permitting another Candidate or a CQR participant to copy one's answers, or possessing unauthorized materials including, but not limited to, notes; and/or
- (x) impersonating a Candidate, or a CQR participant, or permitting an impersonator to take or attempt to take the examination or CQR assessment on one's own behalf; and/or

- (xi) using any other means that potentially alters the results of the examination or CQR assessment such that the results may not accurately represent the professional knowledge base of a Candidate, or a CQR participant.

Education Subversion

5. Subverting, attempting to subvert, or aiding others to subvert or attempt to subvert ARRT's education requirements, including but not limited to, *Continuing Education Requirements (CE)*, clinical experience and competency requirements, structured education activities, and/or ARRT's Continuing Qualifications Requirements (CQR). Conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert ARRT's education or CQR Requirements includes, but is not limited to:
- (i) providing false, inaccurate, altered, or deceptive information related to CE, clinical experience or competency requirements, structured education or CQR activities to ARRT or an ARRT recognized recordkeeper; and/or
 - (ii) assisting others to provide false, inaccurate, altered, or deceptive information related to education requirements or CQR activities to ARRT or an ARRT recognized recordkeeper; and/or
 - (iii) conduct that results or could result in a false or deceptive report of CE, clinical experience or competency requirements, structured education activities or CQR completion; and/or
 - (iv) conduct that in any way compromises the integrity of ARRT's education requirements, including, but not limited to, CE, clinical experience and competency requirements, structured education activities, or CQR Requirements such as sharing answers to the post-tests or self-learning activities, providing or using false certificates of participation, or verifying credits that were not earned or clinical procedures that were not performed.

Failure to Cooperate with ARRT Investigation

6. Subverting or attempting to subvert ARRT's certification and registration processes by:
- (i) making a false statement or knowingly providing false information to ARRT; or
 - (ii) failing to cooperate with any investigation by ARRT.

Unprofessional Conduct

Failure to Conform to Minimal Acceptable Standards

7. Engaging in unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited to:
- (i) a departure from or failure to conform to applicable federal, state, or local governmental rules regarding radiologic technology practice or scope of practice; or, if no such rule exists, to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing radiologic technology practice;
 - (ii) any radiologic technology practice that may create unnecessary danger to a patient's life, health, or safety.

Actual injury to a patient or the public need not be established under this clause.

Sexual Misconduct

8. Engaging in conduct with a patient that is sexual or may reasonably be interpreted by the patient as sexual, or in any verbal behavior that is seductive or sexually

demeaning to a patient; or engaging in sexual exploitation of a patient or former patient. This also applies to any unwanted sexual behavior, verbal or otherwise.

Unethical Conduct

9. Engaging in any unethical conduct, including, but not limited to, conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public; or demonstrating a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety of a patient. Actual injury need not be established under this clause.

Scope of Practice

Technical Incompetence

10. Performing procedures which the individual is not competent to perform through appropriate training and/or education or experience unless assisted or personally supervised by someone who is competent (through training and/or education or experience).

Improper Supervision in Practice

11. Knowingly assisting, advising, or allowing a person without a current and appropriate state permit, license, registration, or an ARRT registered certificate to engage in the practice of radiologic technology, in a jurisdiction that mandates such requirements.

Improper Delegation or Acceptance of a Function

12. Delegating or accepting the delegation of a radiologic technology function or any other prescribed healthcare function when the delegation or acceptance could reasonably be expected to create an unnecessary danger to a patient's life, health, or safety. Actual injury to a patient need not be established under this clause.

Fitness to Practice

Actual or Potential Inability to Practice

13. Actual or potential inability to practice radiologic technology with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness; use of alcohol, drugs, chemicals, or any other material; or as a result of any mental or physical condition.

Inability to Practice by Judicial Determination

14. Adjudication as mentally incompetent, mentally ill, chemically dependent, or dangerous to the public, by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Improper Management of Patient Records

False or Deceptive Entries

15. Improper management of patient records, including failure to maintain adequate patient records or to furnish a patient record or report required by law; or making, causing, or permitting anyone to make false, deceptive, or misleading entry in any patient record.

Failure to Protect Confidential Patient Information

16. Revealing a privileged communication from or relating to a former or current patient, except when otherwise required or permitted by law, or viewing, using, releasing, or otherwise failing to adequately protect the security or privacy of confidential patient information.

Knowingly Providing False Information

17. Knowingly providing false or misleading information that is directly related to the care of a former or current patient.

Violation of State or Federal Law or Regulatory Rule

Narcotics or Controlled Substances Law

18. Violating a state or federal narcotics or controlled substance law, even if not charged or convicted of a violation of law.

Regulatory Authority or Certification Board Rule

19. Violating a rule adopted by a state or federal regulatory authority or certification board resulting in the individual's professional license, permit, registration or certification being denied, revoked, suspended, placed on probation or a consent agreement or order, voluntarily surrendered, subjected to any conditions, or failing to report to ARRT any of the violations or actions identified in this Rule.

Criminal Proceedings

20. Convictions, criminal proceedings, or military courts-martial as described below:
 - (i) conviction of a crime, including, but not limited to, a felony, a gross misdemeanor, or a misdemeanor, with the sole exception of speeding and parking violations. All alcohol and/or drug related violations must be reported; and/or
 - (ii) criminal proceeding where a finding or verdict of guilt is made or returned but the adjudication of guilt is either withheld, deferred, or not entered or the sentence is suspended or stayed; or a criminal proceeding where the individual enters an Alford plea, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere (no contest); or where the individual enters into a pre-trial diversion activity; or
 - (iii) military courts-martial related to any offense identified in these Rules of Ethics.

Duty to Report

Failure to Report Violation

21. Knowing of a violation or a probable violation of any Rule of Ethics by any Certificate Holder or Candidate and failing to promptly report in writing the same to ARRT.

Failure to Report Error

22. Failing to immediately report to the Certificate Holder's or Candidate's supervisor information concerning an error made in connection with imaging, treating, or caring for a patient. For purposes of this rule, errors include any departure from the standard of care that reasonably may be considered to be potentially harmful, unethical, or improper (commission). Errors also include behavior that is negligent or should have occurred in connection with a patient's care, but did not (omission). The duty to report under this rule exists whether or not the patient suffered any injury.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

These Administrative Procedures provide for the structure and operation of the Ethics Committee; they detail

procedures followed by the Ethics Committee and by the Board of Trustees of ARRT in handling challenges raised under the Rules of Ethics, and in handling matters relating to the denial of an application for certification and registration (for reasons other than failure to meet the criteria as stated in Article II, Sections 2.03 and 2.04 of the *Rules and Regulations* of ARRT, in which case, there is no right to a hearing) or the denial of renewal or reinstatement of certification and registration. All Certificate Holders and Candidates are required to comply with these Administrative Procedures. All Certificate Holders and Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner in their interactions with the ARRT Board of Trustees, Ethics Committee and/or staff. Failure to cooperate with the Ethics Committee or the Board of Trustees in a proceeding involving a challenge or ethics review may be considered by the Ethics Committee and by the Board of Trustees according to the same procedures and with the same sanctions as failure to observe the Rules of Ethics.

1. Ethics Committee

(a) Membership and Responsibilities of the Ethics Committee

The President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, appoints at least three Trustees to serve as members of the Ethics Committee, each such person to serve on the Committee until removed and replaced by the President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, at any time, with or without cause. The President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, will also appoint a fourth, alternate member to the Committee. The alternate member will participate on the Committee in the event that one of the members of the Ethics Committee is unable to participate. The Ethics Committee is responsible for: (1) investigating each alleged breach of the Rules of Ethics and determining whether a Certificate Holder or Candidate has failed to observe the Rules of Ethics and determining an appropriate sanction; and (2) periodically assessing the Code of Ethics, Rules of Ethics, and Administrative Procedures and recommending any amendments to the Board of Trustees.

(b) The Chair of the Ethics Committee

The President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, appoints one member of the Ethics Committee as the Committee's Chair to serve for a term of two years as the principal administrative officer responsible for management of the promulgation, interpretation, and enforcement of the *Standards of Ethics*. The President may remove and replace the Chair of the Committee, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, at any time, with or without cause. The Chair presides at and participates in meetings of the Ethics Committee and is responsible directly and exclusively to the Board of Trustees, using staff, legal counsel, and other resources necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of administering the *Standards of Ethics*.

(c) Preliminary Screening of Potential Violations of the Rules of Ethics

The Chair of the Ethics Committee shall review each alleged violation of the Rules of Ethics that is brought to the attention of the Ethics Committee. If, in the sole discretion of the Chair: (1) there is insufficient information upon which to base a charge of a violation of the Rules of Ethics; or (2) the allegations against the Certificate Holder or Candidate are patently frivolous or inconsequential; or (3) the allegations, if true, would not constitute a violation of the Rules of Ethics, the Chair may summarily dismiss the matter. The Chair may be assisted by staff and/or legal counsel of ARRT. The Chair shall report each

such summary dismissal to the Ethics Committee.

At the Chair's direction and upon request, the Executive Director of ARRT shall have the power to investigate allegations regarding the possible settlement of an alleged violation of the Rules of Ethics. The Executive Director may be assisted by staff members and/or legal counsel of ARRT. The Executive Director is not empowered to enter into a binding settlement, but rather may convey and/or recommend proposed settlements to the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee may accept the proposed settlement, make a counterproposal to the Certificate Holder or Candidate, or reject the proposed settlement and proceed under these Administrative Procedures.

2. Hearings

Whenever ARRT proposes to take action in respect to the denial of an application for certification and registration (for reasons other than failure to meet the criteria as stated in Article II, Sections 2.03 and 2.04 of the *Rules and Regulations* of ARRT, in which case there is no right to a hearing) or of an application for renewal or reinstatement of certification and registration, or in connection with the revocation or suspension of certification and registration, or the censure of a Certificate Holder or Candidate for an alleged violation of the Rules of Ethics, it shall give written notice thereof to such person, specifying the reasons for such proposed action. A Certificate Holder or Candidate to whom such notice is given shall have 30 days from the date the notice of such proposed action is mailed to make a written request for a hearing. The written request for a hearing must be accompanied by a nonrefundable hearing fee in the amount of \$100. In rare cases, the hearing fee may be waived, in whole or in part, at the sole discretion of the Ethics Committee.

Failure to make a written request for a hearing and to remit the hearing fee (unless the hearing fee is waived in writing by ARRT) within such period or submission of a properly executed Hearing Waiver form within such period shall constitute consent to the action taken by the Ethics Committee or the Board of Trustees pursuant to such notice. A Certificate Holder or Candidate who requests a hearing in the manner prescribed above shall advise the Ethics Committee of the intention to appear at the hearing. A Certificate Holder or Candidate who requests a hearing may elect to appear in person, via teleconference, or by a written submission which shall be verified or acknowledged under oath.

A Certificate Holder or Candidate may waive the 30 day timeframe to request a hearing. To request a waiver of the 30 day timeframe, the Certificate Holder or Candidate must complete a Hearing Waiver form that is available on the ARRT website at www.arrt.org. The Hearing Waiver form must be signed by the Certificate Holder or Candidate, notarized, and submitted to ARRT. The Executive Director of ARRT shall have the authority to receive, administer, and grant the Hearing Waiver form and may be assisted by staff members and/or legal counsel of ARRT.

Failure to appear at the hearing in person or via teleconference, or to supply a written submission in response to the charges shall be deemed a default on the merits and shall be deemed consent to whatever action or disciplinary

measures that the Ethics Committee determines to take. Hearings shall be held at such date, time, and place as shall be designated by the Ethics Committee or the Executive Director. The Certificate Holder or Candidate shall be given at least 30 days notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The hearing is conducted by the Ethics Committee with any three or more of its members participating, other than any member of the Ethics Committee whose professional activities are conducted at a location in the approximate area of the Certificate Holder or Candidate in question. In the event of such disqualification, the President may appoint a Trustee to serve on the Ethics Committee for the sole purpose of participating in the hearing and rendering a decision. At the hearing, ARRT shall present the charges against the Certificate Holder or Candidate in question, and the facts and evidence of ARRT in respect to the basis or bases for the proposed action or disciplinary measure. The Ethics Committee may be assisted by legal counsel. The Certificate Holder or Candidate in question, by legal counsel or other representative (at the sole expense of the Certificate Holder or Candidate in question), shall have the right to call witnesses, present testimony, and be heard in the Certificate Holder's or Candidate's own defense; to hear the testimony of and to cross-examine any witnesses appearing at such hearing; and to present such other evidence or testimony as the Ethics Committee shall deem appropriate to do substantial justice. Any information may be considered that is relevant or potentially relevant. The Ethics Committee shall not be bound by any state or federal rules of evidence. The Certificate Holder or Candidate in question shall have the right to submit a written statement at the close of the hearing. A transcript or an audio recording of the hearing testimony is made for in person and teleconference hearings only. Ethics Committee deliberations are not recorded.

In the case where ARRT proposes to take action in respect to the denial of an application for certification and registration (for reasons other than failure to meet the criteria as stated in Article II, Sections 2.03 and 2.04 of the *Rules and Regulations* of ARRT) or the denial of renewal or reinstatement of certification and registration, the Ethics Committee shall assess the evidence presented at the hearing and make its decision accordingly, and shall prepare written findings of fact and its determination as to whether grounds exist for the denial of an application for certification and registration or renewal or reinstatement of certification and registration, and shall promptly transmit the same to the Board of Trustees and to the Certificate Holder or Candidate in question.

In the case of alleged violations of the Rules of Ethics by a Certificate Holder or Candidate, the Ethics Committee shall assess the evidence presented at the hearing and make its decision accordingly, and shall prepare written findings of fact and its determination as to whether there has been a violation of the Rules of Ethics and, if so, the appropriate sanction, and shall promptly transmit the same to the Board of Trustees and to the Certificate Holder or Candidate in question. Potential sanctions include denial of renewal or reinstatement of certification and registration with ARRT, revocation or suspension of certification and registration with ARRT, or the public or private reprimand of a Certificate Holder or Candidate. Unless a timely appeal from any findings of fact and determination by the Ethics Committee is taken to the Board of Trustees in accordance with Section 3 below (Appeals), the Ethics Committee's findings of fact and determination in any matter (including the specified sanction) shall be final and binding upon the Certificate Holder or Candidate in question.

3. Appeals

Except as otherwise noted in these Administrative Procedures, the Certificate Holder or Candidate may appeal any decision of the Ethics Committee to the Board of Trustees by submitting a written request for an appeal within 30 days after the decision of the Ethics Committee is mailed. The written request for an appeal must be accompanied by a nonrefundable appeal fee in the amount of \$250. In rare cases, the appeal fee may be waived, in whole or in part, at the sole discretion of the Ethics Committee.

Failure to make a written request for an appeal and to remit the appeal fee (unless the appeal fee is waived in writing by ARRT) within such period or submission of a properly executed Appeal Waiver form within such period shall constitute consent to the action taken by the Ethics Committee or Board of Trustees pursuant to such notice.

A Certificate Holder or Candidate may waive the 30 day timeframe to request an appeal. To request a waiver of the 30 day timeframe, the Certificate Holder or Candidate must complete an Appeal Waiver form that is available on the ARRT website at www.rrt.org. The Appeal Waiver form must be signed by the Certificate Holder or Candidate, notarized, and submitted to ARRT. The Executive Director of ARRT shall have the authority to receive, administer, and grant the Appeal Waiver form and may be assisted by staff members and/or legal counsel of ARRT.

In the event of an appeal, those Trustees who participated in the hearing of the Ethics Committee shall not participate in the appeal. The remaining members of the Board of Trustees shall consider the decision of the Ethics Committee, the files and records of ARRT applicable to the case at issue, and any written appellate submission of the Certificate Holder or Candidate in question, and shall determine whether to affirm or to modify the decision of the Ethics Committee or to remand the matter to the Ethics Committee for further consideration. In making such determination to affirm or to modify, findings of fact made by the Ethics Committee shall be conclusive if supported by any evidence. The Board of Trustees may grant re-hearings, hear additional evidence, or request that ARRT or the Certificate Holder or Candidate in question provide additional information in such manner, on such issues, and within such time as it may prescribe. All hearings and appeals provided for herein shall be private at all stages. It shall be considered an act of professional misconduct for any Certificate Holder or Candidate to make an unauthorized publication or revelation of the same, except to the Certificate Holder's or Candidate's attorney or other representative, immediate superior, or employer.

4. Adverse Decisions

(a) Private Reprimands

A private reprimand is a reprimand that is between the individual and ARRT and is not reported to the public. Private reprimands allow for continued certification and registration.

(b) Public Reprimands

A public reprimand is a sanction that is published on ARRT's website for a period of one year. Public reprimands allow for continued certification and registration.

(c) Conditional

Conditional status may be given for continued certification and registration in those cases where there are minimal conditions of the court that need to be met before the court case is closed (e.g., court ordered supervised probation).

(d) Suspensions

Suspension is the temporary removal of an individual's certification and registration in all categories for up to one year.

(e) Summary Suspensions

Summary suspension is an immediate suspension of an individual's certification and registration in all categories. If an alleged violation of the Rules of Ethics involves the occurrence, with respect to a Certificate Holder, of an event described in the Rules of Ethics, or any other event that the Ethics Committee determines would, if true, potentially pose harm to the health, safety, or well being of any patient or the public, then, notwithstanding anything apparently or expressly to the contrary contained in these Administrative Procedures, the Ethics Committee may, without prior notice to the Certificate Holder and without a prior hearing, summarily suspend the certification and registration of the Certificate Holder pending a final determination under these Administrative Procedures with respect to whether the alleged violation of the Rules of Ethics in fact occurred. Within five working days after the Ethics Committee summarily suspends the certification and registration of a Certificate Holder in accordance with this provision, the Ethics Committee shall, by certified mail, return receipt requested, give to the Certificate Holder written notice that describes: (1) the summary suspension; (2) the reason or reasons for it; and (3) the right of the Certificate Holder to request a hearing with respect to the summary suspension by written notice to the Ethics Committee, which written notice must be received by the Ethics Committee not later than 15 days after the date of the written notice of summary suspension by the Ethics Committee to the Certificate Holder. If the Certificate Holder requests a hearing in a timely manner with respect to the summary suspension, the hearing shall be held before the Ethics Committee or a panel comprised of no fewer than three members of the Ethics Committee as promptly as practicable, but in any event within 30 days after the Ethics Committee's receipt of the Certificate Holder's request for the hearing, unless both the individual and the Ethics Committee agree to a postponement beyond the 30 day period. The Ethics Committee has the absolute discretion to deny any request for a postponement and to proceed to a hearing with or without the participation of the individual. The applicable provisions of Section 2 (Hearings) of these Administrative Procedures shall govern all hearings with respect to summary suspensions, except that neither a determination of the Ethics Committee, in the absence of a timely request for a hearing by the affected Certificate Holder, nor a determination by the Ethics Committee or a panel, following a timely requested hearing, is appealable to the Board of Trustees.

(f) Ineligible

An individual may be determined ineligible for certification and registration or ineligible for reinstatement of certification and registration. The time frame may be time limited or permanent.

(g) Revocation

Revocation removes the individual's certification and registration in all categories. The time frame may be time limited or permanent.

(h) Alternative Dispositions

An Alternative Disposition ("AD") is a contract between an individual and the ARRT Ethics Committee that allows for continued certification and registration in lieu of revocation, provided the individual performs certain requirements, including, but not limited to, providing documentation, attending counseling and/or submitting to random drug and/or alcohol screening. A Certificate Holder or Candidate who voluntarily enters into an Alternative Disposition Agreement agrees to waive all rights set forth in these Administrative Procedures.

(i) Voluntary Surrender of Credentials

At any time during the ethics review process, the Certificate Holder may request to voluntarily surrender ARRT credentials and accept permanent revocation of ARRT certification and registration. To request a voluntary surrender, the Certificate Holder must complete the Voluntary Credential Surrender and Sanction Agreement form ("Agreement") that is available on the ARRT website at www.arrt.org. The Agreement must be signed by the Certificate Holder, notarized, and submitted to ARRT. The Executive Director of ARRT shall have the authority to receive the request and may be assisted by staff members and/or legal counsel of ARRT. The Executive Director is not empowered to enter into a binding agreement, but rather may recommend a proposed action to the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee will then decide whether to accept or deny the request for surrender of credentials. If denied by ARRT, the ethics review will continue according to the *Standards of Ethics*. If accepted by ARRT, the ethics review process will be discontinued, the Certificate Holder agrees to waive all rights set forth in these Administrative Procedures, and a sanction for permanent revocation will be entered against the Certificate Holder.

(j) Civil or Criminal Penalties

Conduct that violates ARRT's Rules of Ethics may also violate applicable state or federal law. In addition to the potential sanctions under the *Standards of Ethics*, ARRT may, without giving prior notice, pursue civil and/or criminal penalties against the Certificate Holder or Candidate.

5. Publication of Adverse Decisions

Summary suspensions and final decisions (other than private reprimands) that are adverse to the Certificate Holder or Candidate will be communicated to the appropriate authorities of certification organizations and state licensing agencies and provided in response to written inquiries into an individual's certification and registration status. The ARRT shall also have the right to publish any final adverse decisions and summary suspensions and the reasons therefore. For purposes of this paragraph, a "final decision" means and includes: a determination of the Ethics Committee relating to an adverse decision if the affected Certificate Holder or Candidate does not request a hearing in a timely manner; a non-appealable decision of the Ethics Committee; an appealable decision of the Ethics Committee from which no timely appeal is taken; and, the decision of the Board of Trustees in a case involving an appeal of an appealable decision of the Ethics Committee.

6. Procedure to Request Removal of a Sanction

A sanction imposed by ARRT, including a sanction specified in a Settlement Agreement, specifically provides a sanction time frame and it shall be presumed that a sanction may only be reconsidered after the time frame has elapsed. At any point after a sanction first becomes eligible for reconsideration, the individual may submit a written request ("Request") to ARRT asking the Ethics Committee to remove the sanction. The Request must be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee in the amount of \$250. A Request that is not accompanied by the fee will be returned to the individual and will not be considered. In rare cases, the fee may be waived, in whole or in part, at the sole discretion of the Ethics Committee. The individual is not entitled to make a personal appearance before the Ethics Committee in connection with a Request to remove a sanction or to modify a Settlement Agreement.

Although there is no required format, Requests for both sanction removal and Settlement Agreement modification must include compelling reasons justifying the removal of the sanction or modification of the Settlement Agreement. It is recommended that the individual demonstrate at least the following: (1) an understanding of the reasons for the sanction; (2) an understanding of why the action leading to the sanction was felt to warrant the sanction imposed; and (3) detailed information demonstrating that the Certificate Holder's or Candidate's behavior has improved and similar activities will not be repeated. Letters of recommendation from individuals, who are knowledgeable about the person's sanction imposed; and current character and behavior, including efforts at rehabilitation, are advised. If a letter of recommendation is not on original letterhead or is not duly notarized, the Ethics Committee shall have the discretion to ignore that letter of recommendation.

Removal of the sanction is a prerequisite to apply for certification and registration. If, at the sole discretion of the Ethics Committee, the sanction is removed, the individual will be allowed to pursue certification and registration via the policies and procedures in place at that time as stated in Section 6.05 of the *ARRT Rules and Regulations*.

If the Ethics Committee denies a Request for removal of the sanction or modification of a Settlement Agreement, the decision is not subject to a hearing or to an appeal, and the Committee will not reconsider removal of the sanction or modification of the Settlement Agreement for as long as is directed by the Committee.

7. Amendments to the Standards of Ethics

The ARRT reserves the right to amend the *Standards of Ethics* following the procedures under Article XI, Section 11.02 of the *ARRT Rules and Regulations*.

GOLD STANDARD
PATIENT CARE



1255 NORTHLAND DRIVE, ST. PAUL, MN 55120
651.687.0048 MAIN PHONE | WWW.ARRT.ORG