

Choose an ADA Member Dentist

Keeping your mouth healthy is an essential part of your overall health, and your dentist plays a key role. Your dentist is a doctor who specializes in keeping you healthy, and your relationship with him or her is very important. The best doctor-patient relationships are based on trust.

When you choose an ADA member dentist, you're choosing a dentist who has agreed to the ***ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct***. Every ADA member dentist makes a professional promise to put your health and well-being first, and is committed to dealing with you ethically and honestly.

Adopted by the ADA in 1866, the ***ADA Code*** is under constant review. While legal and ethical obligations are related, they are not the same. Ethical obligations may—and often do—exceed the letter of the law and what a doctor must do. The ADA Code is an essential part of your doctor-patient relationship. And it's a core part of who we are as ADA member dentists.

These are the five ethical principles that make up the ADA Code:

Principle 1: Self-governance

You have the right as a patient to be involved in your treatment decisions, and your ADA dentist has a duty to honor your decisions within acceptable treatment parameters and to safeguard your privacy.

Principle 2: Do no harm

Your ADA dentist has a duty to protect you from harm and must keep his or her knowledge and skills current.

Principle 3: Do good

Your ADA dentist has a duty to promote your welfare by delivering competent and timely dental care that takes into consideration your needs, desires and values.

Principle 4: Fairness

Your ADA dentist has a duty to treat all people fairly and deliver dental care without prejudice.

Principle 5: Truthfulness

Your ADA dentist has a duty to be honest and trustworthy.

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