

focus on: Legal Affairs

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2015 Code of Ethics Changes

Every year we provide our members with changes to the National Association of REALTORS® Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. This is the first time I can remember in my 13 years at IAR that there have been NO changes by NAR. Yes, I will repeat, there are no changes to the Code of Ethics or Standards of Practice for 2015.



However, there were many administrative changes to the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual that are outlined in great detail [here](#) involving professional standards processes. Some additional highlights are laid out below:

Code of Ethics Training: At the recent Convention in New Orleans, the Board of Directors of the National Association of REALTORS® amended the four year time frame for Code of Ethics training to a two year time frame. The change goes into effect following conclusion of the current four year cycle on December 31, 2016. Consequently, **beginning January 1, 2017 all REALTORS® will be required to complete Code of Ethics training every two years.** The National Association's Model Board Bylaws and Professional Standard Policy Statement #48, REALTORS® Code of Ethics Training, will eventually be amended to incorporate a two year time frame but not until completion of the current four year cycle.

Professional Standards Administrators: Staff primarily responsible for administration of professional standards processes must successfully complete training consistent with Professional Standards Policy Statement #49. If staff has not successfully completed such training, they must do so before becoming primarily responsible for the administration of professional standards processes. If staff has previously completed such training, they have until December 31, 2018 to complete another training. Once staff completes their training, they have four years from that specific date to complete their next training.

Policy: The complete listing, in chronological order, of all Statements of Professional Standards Policy is available on-line at realtor.org. Policy Statements applicable to ethics and arbitration remain in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual in their respective sections, but the complete listing now appears online [here](#).

Pathways to Professionalism has moved from the back of the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual to the front of the Manual, just before the Preface. Pathways to Professionalism is online [here](#).

Citation Policy: Associations interested in adopting a citation policy, a citation schedule of potential violations, and specific fines that apply to those violations may view the National Associations Model Citation Policy [here](#).

Fast Track Process: Associations interested in adopting an optional “fast track” process for receipt, consideration, and resolution of ethics complaints may view an [online supplement](#) to the 2015 Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual.

Ombudsman Program: Enhanced ombudsman resources are also available online [here](#).

Please contact the IAR Legal Hotline if you have any questions or concerns regarding the above. The IAR Legal Hotline is available to managing brokers and designated agents from 9am—5pm, Monday-Friday at 1-800-444-5472.

