

Ethics/Legal Responsibilities for PTA Leaders

(From the NCPTA Leadership Handbook for Local Unit and Council Presidents)

PTA OFFICERS

In selecting a PTA member for a position of leadership, the association is expressing its confidence in him/her. The person who accepts such responsibility signifies a desire to work toward PTA/PTSA goals, to support the Mission and Values of the PTA and volunteer service to the PTA. You may want to adopt the following **Code of Ethics** at your local unit or council.

A PTA Code of Ethics

As a PTA volunteer, I realize that I am subject to a code of ethics similar to that which binds the professional in the field in which I work. Like them, I assume certain responsibilities and expect to account for what I do in terms of what I am expected to do:

1. *I will keep confidential matters confidential.*
2. *I interpret "volunteer" to mean that I have agreed to work without compensation in money, but having been accepted as a worker, I expect to do my work according to standards, as the paid staff expect to do their work.*
3. *I promise to take to my work an attitude of open-mindedness; to be willing to be trained for it; to bring to it interest and attention.*
4. *I realize that I may have assets that my coworkers may not have and that I shall use these to enrich the project at which we are working together.*
5. *I realize also that I may lack assets that my co-workers have, but I will not let this make me feel inadequate but endeavor to assist in developing teamwork.*
6. *I plan to find out how I can best serve the activity for which I have volunteered, and to offer as much as I am sure I can give but no more.*
7. *I realize that I must live up to my promise and therefore, will be careful that my agreement is so simple and clear that it cannot be misunderstood.*
8. *I believe that my attitude toward volunteer work should be professional. I believe that I have an obligation to my work, to those who direct it, to my colleagues, to those for whom it is done, and to the public.*

Author unknown

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

PTA officers and members must recognize their responsibilities in conducting the affairs of the association. Members are responsible for supporting the officers by participating in the business and programs of the unit. Officers are responsible for planning and conducting the work and programs of the unit. *Incorporation* is encouraged for local units in order to provide for limited liability to officers. Local units faced with specific legal questions should consult legal counsel (a school system attorney may be able to offer advice) for answers. Because of differing state laws, the National PTA cannot give legal advice.