SPJ Code of Ethics

• **PREAMBLE**
  Members of the Society of Professional Journalists believe that public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy. Ethical journalism strives to ensure the free exchange of information that is accurate, fair and thorough. An ethical journalist acts with integrity.
  
The Society declares these four principles as the foundation of ethical journalism and encourages their use in its practice by all people in all media.

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**Code of Ethics Highlights**

• **SEEK TRUTH AND REPORT IT**
  Ethical journalism should be accurate and fair. Journalists should be honest and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information.

• **MINIMIZE HARM**
  Ethical journalism treats sources, subjects, colleagues and members of the public as human beings deserving of respect.

• **ACT INDEPENDENTLY**
  The highest and primary obligation of ethical journalism is to serve the public.

• **BE ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT**
  Ethical journalism means taking responsibility for one's work and explaining one's decisions to the public.
  
For the full version of SPJ's Code of Ethics, visit spj.org/ethics.asp

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**SO WHY JOIN?**

You become one of more than 7,000 journalists nationwide fighting for one cause:

**Improving and Protecting Journalism.**

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**SUPPORT**

Investing in Excellence in Journalism

**SIGMA DELTA CHI FOUNDATION**
Donations to the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation support training and education for journalists and awards grants to the journalism community. The Foundation is a 501(C)3 charity and gifts are tax deductible.

**LEGAL DEFENSE FUND**
The Society of Professional Journalists collects and distributes contributions for aiding journalists in defending the freedom of speech and press guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

**FIRST AMENDMENT FOREVER FUND**
It isn’t getting any easier to fight for press freedom. It’s getting worse. The Forever Fund is a sustained war chest to guarantee someone is always fighting for press freedom. If we don’t do it, who will?

**PRESIDENT’S CLUB**
Contributions support SPJ’s general fund to promote the flow of information, protect free speech, foster excellence, encourage diversity and inspire the next generation of journalists.

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What’s your passion? Visit our website: **SPJ.ORG/DONATE**

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**Society of Professional Journalists**

P.O. Box 44174, Indianapolis, IN 46244
317.927.8000 | spj.org

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**Society of Professional Journalists**

Improving & Protecting Journalism Since 1909
**Professional Development**
- With your SPJ membership, you have access to regional spring conferences, the annual Excellence in Journalism conference (more than 50 professional development sessions in three days!), chapters and communities, a chance to submit your best work for the Sigma Delta Chi awards or the Mark of Excellence awards for collegiate journalists, training on demand sessions, weekly e-newsletters tailored to fit your interests and a subscription to Quill, SPJ’s magazine.
- You’ll also have access to a job bank and freelance directory to help advance your career.

**Journalism Advocacy**
- SPJ gives you a voice on Capitol Hill and within the halls of your state legislature, and also works to help you understand Freedom of Information legislation and ways to access public records.
- Nationally and locally, SPJ is working hard to ensure a free flow of information that is vital to a democracy. **We fight and win battles for freedom of information and First Amendment rights.** We provide guidelines to ensure that journalists perform their work while adhering to ethical standards of behavior and decision-making. And we share resources to help journalists expand their source base to better reflect their community.

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**ABOUT YOU** (Please print)

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| Please send mailings to my: | ☐ work ☐ home |

| Email Address: | _______________________________________________________________________________________ |

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**Mailing List**

SPJ occasionally receives requests for mailing lists from other journalism groups and advertisers.
- ☐ Do not include my name on such lists

**RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:**

Society of Professional Journalists
P.O. Box 441748
Indianapolis, IN 46244
Phone: 317.927.8000

* Membership dues are non-refundable. $25 of membership dues are applied toward a Quill subscription.

**PAYMENT METHOD**

- ☐ Check enclosed (payable to SPJ)
- Bill my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx
- #: __________________________ Exp: ________
- Signature: _______________________________________________________________________

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*Membership dues are non-refundable. $25 of membership dues are applied toward a Quill subscription.*

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**ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP IN SPJ**

- ☐ Professional Journalists & Educators $78.75
- ☐ Students $39.50 (__________ Anticipated graduation date)
- ☐ Post Graduates $39.50 (Through 3 years after graduation)
- ☐ Retired Journalists $39.50
- ☐ Lifetime Membership $1,000
- ☐ Household (Spouse/Partner of current members) $39.50
- ☐ Supporter $21

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**Local Chapter Dues**

- ☐ I wish to pay my local chapter dues now.
- My local chapter is __________________________________________________________________|
- Local Dues $ ________________________________________________________________________

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**FIND US ON SPJ.ORG**

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**You may also join online at spj.org**