



The Expert Witness Institute Membership Rules

1. Background

The Expert Witness Institute (EWI) is a professional body dedicated to supporting the proper administration of justice and the early resolution of disputes through objective and unbiased expert evidence.

The EWI supports its members, individual professionals and organisations in achieving best practice and professional competence in expert witness work underpinned by the principles of justice, honesty and integrity. These standards apply equally to the professional conduct of the expert, the working relationship with the instructing party, the client and other experts and any actions which may have an impact on society at large.

2. Introduction

These rules should be read alongside [The Academy of Experts and Expert Witness Institute Joint Code of Practice](#) as they provide further clarification of the expected levels of professional conduct expected by members. The primary aim of these rules is to ensure that at all times members of EWI act in such a way that the interests of justice are paramount. Following the rules therefore protects the member who could be in a vulnerable position and who may be subjected to contradictory pressures.

As an expert applies specialist experience, knowledge and skills in order to assist dispute resolution, they must:

1. Possess appropriate experience, knowledge and skills that are relevant to the matters in dispute
2. Be competent to apply that expertise to the case.
3. Subject to the overriding duty to the court, support the client and the legal system in which his or her opinion will be used
4. Make a positive contribution to achieving adherence to the standards set out in [The Academy of Experts and Expert Witness Institute Joint Code of Practice](#) and these rules

5. Subscribe to an on-going commitment to self-development such as through appropriate continuing professional development, peer review of expert testimony and appraisal

Members across all grades undertake to abide by these principles when they join the EWI. [The Joint Code](#) and these rules set a high standard and the EWI provides support and advice to members and others as they seek to follow them in their day-to-day practice.

Information or complaints which come to the EWI's attention suggesting that a member's conduct may not be in accordance with best practice, the [Joint Code](#), and these rules will be reviewed under the EWI's disciplinary procedure which is overseen by the Board of Governors.

3. Expert witness declaration

As an expert witness and a member of the EWI I will conduct my practice with honesty and integrity in my own actions as an expert witness and in my dealings with instructing parties and other parties and the courts, tribunals or other bodies to which I have provided expert opinion

In my professional practice I will:

1. Strive for excellence at all times
2. Exemplify the highest standards of professional conduct
3. Be accountable for my actions
4. Disclose any personal interests which may affect my impartiality
5. Act only within my level of competence and area of expertise and promptly advise those instructing me if an issue falls outside my area of expertise.
6. Continue to develop my competencies and keep up-to-date with best practice
7. Advise the client if I believe a claim or defence is unlikely to be successful but acknowledging that ultimately this is a matter for legal advice based not just on expert opinion
8. Not accept work that is likely to damage my ability to fulfil existing commitments
9. Not use statements in advertising my expertise or services which contain material misrepresentative of fact, or which omit material facts necessary to keep statements from being misleading about expertise or services.
10. Safeguard confidential information and not seek personal advantage from it
11. Act reasonably and ethically in identifying and resolving conflicts of interest
12. Be accountable for achieving the tasks that I have undertaken to deliver
13. Neither offer nor accept gifts, hospitality or services which could create or imply an improper relationship or obligation
14. Ensure that I am aware of and comply with all relevant legislation, procedure rules/ practice directions / judicial guidance and case law

15. Ensure that decisions made in relation to professional activities are not influenced inappropriately by any considerations of the race, colour, creed, age, disability, sexuality or gender of those with whom they have dealings.

4. As a member of the Expert Witness Institute I will:

1. Promote its mission, aims and objective
2. Uphold its integrity and good standing and refrain from conduct which may detract from its reputation
3. Promote its professional image and standing as a professional body for expert witnesses
4. Observe the standard of conduct and practice as set out in [The Academy of Experts and Expert Witness Institute Joint Code of Practice](#) and these rules as they may be amended from time to time
5. Not maliciously or recklessly injure or attempt to injure the professional reputation of another expert by unjustifiable, malicious or reckless complaints, whether directly or through a third party.

5. In respect of its members, the EWI commits to:

1. Championing of the expert witness, by acting as a voice for expert witnesses especially in communication with the media
2. Provide support to experts in all professional disciplines and other occupations whose members are required to assist with expert opinion
3. Encourage lawyers to make use of experts who are members of the EWI
4. Disseminate information on legal developments
5. Working actively with other allied professional bodies and associations
6. Raising the level of competence and enhance expert witness standards through the provision of training and personal development courses
7. Making representation to government and professional bodies and associations on behalf of the expert witness profession.

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