

**Columbia County Rural Library District
Board of Trustees - ETHICS POLICY/CODE OF
CONDUCT**

The Columbia County Rural Library District is dependent on the trust of its community to successfully achieve its mission. Therefore, it is crucial that all Board members conduct business on behalf of the Columbia County Rural Library District with the highest level of integrity avoiding any misconduct.

Guiding Standards:

- Trustees should uphold the integrity of the Columbia County Rural Library District and should perform their duties impartially and diligently.
- Trustees should not engage in discrimination of any kind including that based on race, class, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or belief system.
- Trustees should protect and uphold library patrons' right to privacy in their use of the library's resources.
- Trustees should avoid situations in which their personal interests, activities or financial affairs are, or are likely to be perceived as being in conflict with the best interests of the Columbia County Rural Library District.
- Trustees should not take individual actions which may compromise the Board.
- Trustees should avoid having interests that may reasonably bring into question their position in a fair, impartial and objective manner.
- Trustees should not knowingly act in any way that would reasonably be expected to create an impression among the public that they are engaged in conduct that violates their trust as Board members or employees.
- Trustees should not use or attempt to use their position with the Columbia County Rural Library District to obtain unwarranted privileges or advantages for themselves or others.
- Trustees should not be swayed by partisan interests, public pressure, or fear of criticism.
- Trustees should respect the opinions of their colleagues and not be critical or disrespectful when they disagree or oppose a viewpoint different from their own.
- Trustees should not denigrate the organization or fellow Board members or employees in any public arena.
- Trustees should act as one, speaking with one voice to the public and press.

Therefore:

To preserve and uphold the Columbia County Rural Library District's reputation as an organization of integrity, each Board member will sign a "Conflict of Interest" statement and an "Ethics Statement/Code of Conduct" at the beginning of his/her service during their term with the Columbia County Rural Library District.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____