

Code of Ethics of Public Prosecutors

I. Legality and Independence

Public prosecutors shall exercise the competences of the Public Prosecutor's Office thoroughly in accordance with the law and their conscience, independent of other bodies and of local, political, private, or other influences and interests.

II. Impartiality

Public prosecutors shall refrain from granting any undue advantage or disadvantage to any person in the exercise of the duties of his position. They shall refrain from any activity that may as much as give rise to questions regarding their impartiality.

III. Professionalism

(1) Public Prosecutors shall perform the duties of their position at the highest professional level. To that end, they shall continuously educate themselves and deepen their legal expertise.

(2) When performing the duties of their position, public prosecutors shall proceed with initiative so as to expeditiously and reliably ascertain the actual state of the matter at hand and, based on the result, make an appropriate decision or adopt an appropriate measure.

IV. Trustworthiness

(1) When performing the duties of their position as well as in their private life, public prosecutors shall conduct themselves so as not to call into question their own trustworthiness or the trustworthiness of the public prosecutor's office.

(2) In performing the duties of their position as well as in their private life, public prosecutors shall show that adherence to legal regulations constitutes an important value for them.

(3) Public prosecutors shall not call their trustworthiness into question by referring to their position in matters unrelated to the exercise of the function of a public prosecutor. Furthermore, public prosecutors shall not abuse any of the information that comes to their attention during the exercise of their function for private purposes.

(4) Public prosecutors shall not accept any financial or non-financial benefit or advantage (hereinafter referred to as "gift") in connection with the exercise of the competences of the public prosecutor's office. Public prosecutors may accept a gift in connection with the exercise of their function, a protocolary gift, or a gift provided by their employer, but not a gift the acceptance of which would call into question their impartiality, independence, and trustworthiness.

(5) Public prosecutors shall consider the suitability of accepting a gift also in their personal life, in order to maintain the trustworthiness of their own and that of the public prosecutor's office.

V. Dignity and Conduct

(1) Public prosecutors shall behave and conduct themselves politely and decently.

(2) In their conduct, public prosecutors shall take care to maintain the confidentiality statutorily prescribed for public prosecutors.

(3) Public prosecutors shall, in performing the duties of their position, take care to be presentable and dressed in manner appropriate to the position's importance.

(4) Public prosecutors shall adhere to principles of politeness and decency in their private life as well.

VI. Cooperation

In the interest of justice and protection of public interest, public prosecutors shall, when carrying out their duties, cooperate, depending on the circumstances of a particular case and in line with legal regulations, both with one another and with other law enforcement authorities, including foreign authorities.