



What Happens In Vegas Stays In Vegas?

S. Anthony Safi
El Paso, Texas

Giana Ortiz
Arlington, Texas

Educator Code of Ethics

- Pmb1: The Texas educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and *members of the community* and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty.
- Standard 1.10: "The educator shall be of good moral character and be worthy to instruct or supervise the youth of this state."

“Good Moral Character”

- 19 Tex. Admin. Code § 249.3(23).
- The virtues of a person as evidenced by patterns of personal, academic, and occupational behaviors that, in the judgment of the State Board for Educator Certification, indicate honesty, accountability, trustworthiness, reliability, and integrity. Lack of good moral character may be evidenced by the commission of crimes relating directly to the duties and responsibilities of the education profession as described in § 249.16(b) of this title . . . , or by the commission of acts involving moral turpitude, but conduct that evidences a lack of good moral character is not necessarily limited to such crimes or acts.

“Moral Turpitude”

- 19 Tex. Admin. Code § 249.3(30)
- Improper conduct, including but not limited to the following: dishonesty; fraud; deceit; theft; misrepresentation; deliberate violence; base, vile, or depraved acts that are intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of the actor; drug or alcohol related offenses as described in § 249.16(b) of this title . . . ; or acts constituting abuse or neglect under the Texas Family Code, § 261.001.

“Unworthy to instruct or to supervise the youth of this state”

- 19 Tex. Admin. Code § 249.3(59).
- Absence of those moral, mental, and psychological qualities that are required to enable an educator to render the service essential to the accomplishment of the goals and mission of the State Board for Educator Certification policy and Chapter 247 of this title (relating to Educators’ Code of Ethics). . . . A determination that a person is unworthy to instruct does not require a criminal conviction.

Board Policy DFBB (Local)

- Failure to meet the District’s standards of professional conduct.
- Failure to maintain an effective working relationship, or maintain good rapport, with parents, the community, or colleagues.
- Any activity, school-connected or otherwise, that, because of publicity given it, or knowledge of it among students, faculty, or the community, impairs or diminishes the employee’s effectiveness in the District.

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in over 30 legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](https://utcle.org/elibrary)

Title search: What Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas?

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
33rd Annual School Law Conference session
"What Happens in Vegas?"