

Society of Australian Genealogists: CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct defines our expectations for interactions and communications between Society members, volunteers, staff, visitors and guests. It sits alongside SAG's Code of Ethics, which outlines our guidelines for the responsible and respectful conduct of genealogical research.

Courtesy and respect

In all our activities we are courteous and respectful.

Interactions

In our interactions we are courteous and respectful of:

- SAG members, and their individual interests, research areas, viewpoints and levels of experience.
- SAG volunteers, and their contributions to our work and programs.
- SAG staff and their right to set guidelines around access to, and handling of, SAG resources.
- SAG visitors and guests, including invited speakers, for their generosity in sharing their knowledge and skills.

Communication

In our communications we behave courteously and respectfully by:

- Seeking to understand another's point of view without judgement.
- Disagreeing without criticising the person.
- Being patient with those less experienced with family history research.
- Showing empathy to people encountering technological challenges.
- Understanding that individuals have different communication styles and preferences.
- Sharing information and discoveries openly and being open to feedback.
- Always giving proper credit when using the work of another and only reproducing work with permission.
- Disclosing potential conflicts of interest.
- Valuing the diversity of cultures, genders and personalities that enrich our SAG community and working actively to create an atmosphere of inclusion and belonging.

Managing information

We demonstrate courtesy and respect by:

- Treating information about living or recently deceased people with sensitivity.
- Treating potentially unwelcome family history discoveries with sensitivity and empathy.
- Considering the feelings of living people when sharing information about close relatives.
- Taking a culturally sensitive approach to family history information when a community has different traditions and beliefs to our own.
- Ensuring that the operational protocols set out by the Society for information management, including recordings of Society events, are adhered to for Society events and activities.
- Not publishing or publicly presenting genealogical or genetic information of living people, other than that which is already publicly available, unless informed consent has been given.
- Not capturing any image or living individuals' details from online/recorded presentations, unless informed consent has been given.

Approved by the Society's Board of Directors 12 February 2024

Developed by the Genealogical Ethics and Standards Advisory Group Committee with volunteer and Director consultation in 2023. Original draft by Penny Oxford.