

Lake Fern Montessori Academy Educator Code of Ethics

1. The LFMA staff values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
 2. The primary professional concern of the LFMA staff will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. The educator will therefore strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
 3. Aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community, the educator strives to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct.
 4. LFMA staff have the duty to report alleged employee or administrator misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student.
 - a. The school points of contact are Roxanne Richards and/or Jeffrey Richards.
 - b. Reporting shall be in confidence except as prescribed by law.
 - c. Reporting personnel are encouraged to submit in writing applicable details of the alleged misconduct.
 - d. Reporting personnel have certain liability protections as prescribed in Florida Statutes 39.203 and 768.095 (included below)
 5. LFMA Staff have the duty to report actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect.
 - a. The school points of contact are Roxanne Richards and/or Jeffrey Richards.
 - b. The State of Florida points of contact are 1-800-96-ABUSE or www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/
 - c. Reporting personnel have certain liability protections as prescribed in Florida Statutes 39.203 and 768.095 (included below)
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Lake Fern Montessori Academy Principles of Professional Conduct

The following shall constitute the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Lake Fern Montessori Academy staff.

Violation of any of these principles shall subject the individual to disciplinary action, or the other penalties as provided by law.

Obligation to the student requires that the individual:

1. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety.
2. Shall not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning.
3. Shall not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program.
4. Shall not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
5. Shall not intentionally violate or deny a student's legal rights.
6. Shall not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable effort to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination.
7. Shall not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
8. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.

Obligation to the public requires that the individual:

1. Shall take reasonable precautions to distinguish between personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the individual is affiliated.
2. Shall not intentionally distort or misrepresent facts concerning an educational matter in direct or indirect public expression.
3. Shall not use institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage.

4. Shall accept no gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence professional judgment.
5. Shall offer no gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages.

Obligation to the profession of education requires that the individual:

1. Shall maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
2. Shall not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition if otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization.
3. Shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.
4. Shall not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, shall make reasonable effort to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination.
5. Shall not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague.
6. Shall not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications.
7. Shall not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities.
8. Shall not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
9. Shall self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to appropriate authorities (as determined by district) any arrests/charges involving the abuse of a child or the sale and/or possession of a controlled substance. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program,

or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, school districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of Sections 943.0585(4)(c) and 943.059(4)(c), Florida Statutes.

39.203 Immunity from liability in cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.--

(1)(a) Any person, official, or institution participating in good faith in any act authorized or required by this chapter, or reporting in good faith any instance of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the department or any law enforcement agency, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of such action.

(b) Except as provided in this chapter, nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to grant immunity, civil or criminal, to any person suspected of having abused, abandoned, or neglected a child, or committed any illegal act upon or against a child.

(2)(a) No resident or employee of a facility serving children may be subjected to reprisal or discharge because of his or her actions in reporting abuse, abandonment, or neglect pursuant to the requirements of this section.

(b) Any person making a report under this section shall have a civil cause of action for appropriate compensatory and punitive damages against any person who causes detrimental changes in the employment status of such reporting party by reason of his or her making such report. Any detrimental change made in the residency or employment status of such person, including, but not limited to, discharge, termination, demotion, transfer, or reduction in pay or benefits or work privileges, or negative evaluations within a prescribed period of time shall establish a rebuttable presumption that such action was retaliatory.

768.095 Employer immunity from liability; disclosure of information regarding former or current employees.--An employer who discloses information about a former or current employee to a prospective employer of the former or current employee upon request of the prospective employer or of the former or current employee is immune from civil liability for such disclosure or its consequences unless it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the information disclosed by the former or current employer was knowingly false or violated any civil right of the former or current employee protected under chapter 760.