



# Personal Code of Honor

**LIBERTY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW  
PERSONAL CODE OF HONOR**

**A. PREFACE**

A chaste, honorable, and virtuous life encompasses many principles, including, but not limited to, respect for authority, respect for the human dignity of others, respect for all institutional policies, avoidance of physically threatening or violent acts towards others, and personal self-control. A violation of these or similar principles may result in serious disciplinary action or, where appropriate, may prompt pastoral counseling. The Personal Code of Honor sets forth the disciplinary procedures that apply when non-academic misconduct by a law student is alleged to have occurred. Students are charged with notice of this Personal Code of Honor. New students shall be required to sign a statement indicating that they have received and read the Personal Code of Honor.

**B. CONDUCT THAT UNDERMINES THE SAFETY, MISSION, OR REPUTATION OF THE SCHOOL**

Acts that may reasonably undermine the safety, mission, or reputation of the law school or university are violations of the Personal Code of Honor. Examples of such acts include, but are not limited to:

- Commission of a crime or an intentional tort; or
- Violations of institutional policies, including standards of dress; or
- Conduct that may reasonably tend to cause public embarrassment to the law school, the university, or their representatives, students, or employees; or
- Knowingly filing false reports of violations of law school rules, except that no sanction shall follow from reports made in good faith.

**C. SEXUAL, PHYSICAL, OR VERBAL MISCONDUCT**

Respect for the dignity of each individual as a person created in God's image is fundamental to the institutional culture desired at Liberty University School of Law. Misconduct that is contrary to the teachings of the Christian faith and constitutes a violation of the law school's Personal Code of Honor includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexually-oriented joking or comments; or
- Unwelcome touching or any touching of a sexual nature; or
- Sexually-oriented comments about an individual's body; or
- Offensive or crude language directed at individuals or a group of individuals; or

- Display of objects or pictures that depict nudity or are otherwise sexual in nature; or
- Persistent, unwanted attempts to change a casual or friendly relationship into a romantic or more intimate one; or
- Verbal or physical abuse; or
- Non-marital sexual relations or the encouragement or advocacy of any form of sexual behavior that would undermine the Christian identity or faith mission of the University constitute morally inappropriate sexual misconduct and constitute violations of this Personal Code of Honor.
- Cohabiting with a member of the opposite gender, who is not the law student's spouse or family member, either for the purpose of engaging in a sexual relationship, or in a manner which gives the appearance that the law student is engaging in a sexual relationship. Law students are encouraged to know and abide by common-sense guidelines to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

Violations of the racial or sexual harassment policies within this Student Handbook shall constitute *prima facie* violations of this Personal Code of Honor. Further, sexual discrimination is covered under Title IX, which is also a violation of this Personal Code of Honor as well as the Liberty Way. Section X of this document outlines Law School procedures relating to Title IX misconduct. The Liberty University Office of Equity and Compliance is responsible for developing and administering the University's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](https://www.liberty.edu/title-ix/wp-content/uploads/sites/126/2020/08/Liberty-University-Discrimination-Harassment-and-Sexual-Misconduct-Policy-published_081420.pdf). That policy may be found at: [https://www.liberty.edu/title-ix/wp-content/uploads/sites/126/2020/08/Liberty-University-Discrimination-Harassment-and-Sexual-Misconduct-Policy-published\\_081420.pdf](https://www.liberty.edu/title-ix/wp-content/uploads/sites/126/2020/08/Liberty-University-Discrimination-Harassment-and-Sexual-Misconduct-Policy-published_081420.pdf).

#### **D. ABUSIVE OR THREATENING CONDUCT**

Liberty University School of Law is committed to providing students and employees a safe environment. Therefore, any words, actions, or behavior intended to cause physical injury (to others or self), threaten any individual, or cause an individual to have reasonable fear for his or her safety will not be tolerated.

#### **E. PORNOGRAPHY**

Involvement with pornographic, erotic, obscene, indecent, or other similarly offensive materials, expressions, or conduct is inconsistent with the Personal Code of Honor and the Christian faith. Use of the university's computing network to obtain or distribute pornographic material constitutes a violation of the Personal Code of Honor.

#### **F. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

The law school seeks to provide a contraband-free, healthy, and safe learning environment. To this end, no student may misuse legal drugs or other legal medications; or use, possess, distribute, or sell alcohol, illegal drugs or other legally defined contraband, or tobacco products.