

## **Minnesota Supreme Court No-Fault Standing Committee Arbitrators' Standards of Conduct**

The success of the no-fault arbitration system in Minnesota is dependent upon the willingness of attorneys to serve as arbitrators and impartially hear and decide no-fault disputes. The system works best to achieve its purpose of a fair, fast means of informed dispute resolution through the maintenance of high quality panel members.

The Supreme Court's No-Fault Standing Committee and the American Arbitration Association have established these Standards of Conduct to provide a guide for attorneys selected to act as arbitrators in no-fault matters. This is not a Code of Ethics. The ethical considerations that need to be taken into account when acting as an arbitrator are set forth in the AAA-established procedures and the *Code of Ethics for Arbitrators in Commercial Disputes*, to which each arbitrator agrees to comply when submitting their application to serve on the no-fault panel.

1. An arbitrator should at all times act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the arbitration process.
2. An arbitrator should be faithful to the law and maintain professional competence in it.
3. An arbitrator should be patient, dignified and courteous to parties, witnesses, lawyers and others in the arbitration process and should require similar conduct of lawyers and others subject to the arbitrator's direction and control.
4. An arbitrator should accord to the parties the full right to be heard according to law, and, neither initiate nor consider ex parte or other communications concerning a pending or impending arbitration proceeding.
5. An arbitrator should schedule promptly and be prepared for hearings.
6. An arbitrator should make decisions in a just, independent and deliberate manner.
7. An arbitrator should dispose promptly of all arbitrations submitted and, in all cases, within 30 days of closure of the record.

The Supreme Court No-Fault Standing Committee and the AAA are committed to maintaining the high quality of the arbitration panel. The sub-committee on arbitrator conduct is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that arbitrators act in accordance with standards of conduct appropriate to their task. Failure to follow these standards, especially on a repeated basis, may be grounds for removal from the no-fault panel. Participants in the process who believe that an arbitrator has acted in a manner inappropriate to their role as an impartial decision-maker may file a written complaint outlining the basis for this belief, with the AAA case manager assigned to the particular case. Any written complaint will be forwarded to the sub-committee for investigation and appropriate action.