

WAMC

Code of Ethics for News and Public Affairs

WAMC Northeast Public Radio is dedicated to excellence and diversity in covering news and public affairs. Coverage is provided through

- NPR – World and national news, including *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*, together with hourly news headlines
- BBC – World news headlines and overnight news and features
- American Public Media – *Marketplace* (Business and Financial News)
- WAMC's own staff of reporters and editors, providing the most extensive local and regional radio news coverage in its listening area
- Information and opinion on a wide variety of topics through locally-produced programming, including the *Roundtable*, the *Congressional Corner*, the *Media Project* and through a series of commentaries from individuals representing various points of view.

WAMC's employees who have responsibility for news and public affairs programming should endeavor at all times to follow the following Code of Ethics:

- Coverage of news events should be complete and accurate. If the subject involves controversy, the views of all responsible sides should be fairly presented.
- Sources of information should be disclosed. Individual sources should be named unless there are compelling reasons not to do so.
- Information first reported in other media should be so described.
- All subjects of news coverage should be treated with respect and dignity; children involved in news events should be covered with special care.
- News reporters should be conscious of the need to avoid allowing personal bias or opinion to color their coverage.

In covering criminal matters, every effort should be made to avoid prejudicing the accused's right to a fair trial.

- Reasonable efforts should be made to maintain a distinction, clear to the listening audience, between news and opinion or commentary.
- Both individual employees and the station should use best efforts to prevent their news coverage from being distorted by outside personal or commercial relationships. Underwriters and contributors should not be allowed to influence news coverage.
- Any errors should be corrected as promptly as possible. Complaints by members of the public should be fully investigated and corrective action taken where appropriate.
- All employees should be mindful of the need to conduct themselves in a way which does not cause embarrassment to the station, or prejudice its relationship with the public that it serves.