

THE NATIONWIDE STANDARD

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Our Mission

"We are committed to being the foremost provider of accurate information and quality customer service at a competitive price for our clients."



Portfolio Clean-Up Tip:
Be sure to send us your deletions!

Nationwide Real Estate Tax Service, Inc.

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ESTABLISH A CODE OF CONDUCT

"The golden rule is that there are no golden rules." ~ George Bernard Shaw (Irish literary Critic, Playwright and Essayist. 1925 Nobel Prize for Literature, 1856-1950)

Most publicly scrutinized institutions establish a formal Code of Ethics for all of their employees to follow in order to ensure sound and safe business practices and to reassure investors and the public of honest dealings. It establishes a framework for professional behavior and responsibilities and provides the organization a benchmark for self evaluation.

The act of creating a Code of Conduct should not be taken lightly. It is a standard of behavior that each team member will hold to themselves and their colleagues. So when writing a Code of Conduct, how it is written is equally as important as what is written. Make sure each precept contains the following considerations:

- **First Person:** Use "I" statements to establish personal responsibility
- **Present Tense:** Claim the here and now, not the future or past
- **Positive:** State what you will do, rather than what you will not
- **Action:** Use action verbs to inspire motivation and achievement

- **Specific:** Add detail to each precept so that it is understandable to all
- **Unconditional:** Each element of the code should be upheld despite circumstance, so that in times of conflict members are encouraged to take the high road

The following are examples of poorly written Code precepts coupled with well written ones:

Poor: "Be honest."

Good: "I deal honestly and forthcoming in all matters related to the bank."

Poor: "I will not perform actions that will harm the bank."

Good: "I consider the impact of my actions on the bank, its owners, customers, employees, and the community."

Poor: "I listen to others' opinions."

Good: "I listen attentively to others without interruption and provide respectful and positive feedback."

Make sure that your Code of Conduct is thoughtfully constructed with the participation of all members. Have a poster printed with your Code on it and display it in a high visibility area. Lastly, periodically review the Code for validity and function. A team's success is rarely an accident. It comes from discipline, determination, and cooperation.

Did You Know?

- 13% of people are left-handed, up from 11% a few decades ago.
- Animals also are either right-handed or left-handed. Polar bears are left-handed.

Quotes for the Quarter

"640,000 bytes of memory ought to be enough for anybody." (Bill Gates, 1981, co-founder and Chairman of Microsoft Corporation)

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." (Abraham Lincoln – 16th US President; 1809 – 1865)

Flood Risk Scenarios

(Source: FloodSmart.gov)

Floods are the most common natural disaster in the USA. Which scenario applies to you / your borrowers? Our hand mapped flood zone determinations are the solution to determining proper insurance coverage. Remember: we *all* live in a flood zone.

SNOW MELT: You live on a rural farm, a relatively flat area located several miles from the nearest body of water. Your property is exposed to heavy snowfall that accumulates over the winter months. As spring approaches, the snow begins to melt while the ground is still frozen. With no ground absorption and little to no drainage, the snow melt becomes a slow flood. Your home and surrounding structures experience a flood that could last for a week or more.

Event: The Great Midwestern Flood of 1993 lasted over 4 months, ruined 49,000 homes, and caused at least \$16 billion in property damage.

FLASH FLOOD: You live in an outlying suburb in an arid region that sees little rainfall. Late one summer, a current of warm, moist air blows in, bringing with it a torrential downpour. With no rain for the past several months, the desert climate has made the ground bone-dry and unable to absorb the rainfall. Within a couple hours, the rushing water carrying deadly debris crashes through the neighborhood. The flooding causes massive destruction, sweeping everything away in its path.

Event: Flash floods are the #1 weather-related killer in the USA. They can roll boulders, tear out trees, and destroy buildings and bridges.

NEW DEVELOPMENT: You live in a relatively new suburb. Near your home, an apartment complex is being built. As a severe thunderstorm moves in, heavy rains rapidly accumulate. With less land available to absorb the precipitation, the water has nowhere to go and begins to pool. Your neighborhood experiences a flood that lasts only hours, but causes thousands of dollars in damage.

Event: Construction and development can change natural drainage and create new flood risks.



DAMS/LEVEES: You live several miles from a small earthen dam. One spring, a strong storm comes in, bringing heavy rains that last for days. As the rain water accumulates, the small dam reaches its "worst case scenario" capacity. Under pressure of this extra water, the dam collapses. Your community experiences a flood that lasts for several days and causes extreme damage to homes and businesses in the area.

Event: according to the National Inventory of Dams (1994), there are 74,000 dams in the USA. Of those, nearly 1/3 pose a significant risk to life and property if they collapse. Additionally, levees and flood walls can be overtopped by extreme flooding.

TROPICAL STORMS: You live in a small community 150 miles inland. When a hurricane hits the coast, you feel safe from harm. Days later, the tropical storm system moves in and stalls over your community. Steady torrential rains from the tropical storm slowly begin to accumulate. The ground becomes saturated and storm drains are quickly overwhelmed. The community experiences a major flood that lasts for days.

MYTH: Inland flooding from tropical storms can be a major threat to communities hundreds of miles from the coast.

Hours of Operation:
Mon – Fri, 8am – 5pm

Important E-Mails:

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Columbus Day, 10/11

"Many great ideas have been lost because the people who had them could not stand being laughed at." ~ Author Unknown

Halloween, 10/31

"This Halloween the most popular mask is the Arnold Schwarzenegger mask. And the best part? With a mouth full of candy you will sound just like him." ~ Conan O'Brien

Veterans' Day, 11/11

"We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude." ~ Cynthia Ozick

Thanksgiving Day, 11/25

"Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action." ~ W.J. Cameron

Happy Holidays, 12/2010

"The only alternative to coexistence is codestruction." ~ Jawaharlal Nehru

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\$1 Trillion Dollars

"A billion here, a billion there, pretty soon, you're talking real money." ~ Everett Dirksen, American Politician (January 4, 1896 – September 7, 1969)

One Trillion. Most of us cannot even fathom One Billion. For example, we can understand that our planet Earth revolves around the sun, which is a star. We can picture that mentally. The fact that there are over 400 billion stars in our galaxy, The Milky Way, is somewhat overwhelming... though we can picture the spiral swirl. But when one mentions the over 80 billion galaxies in our Observable Universe, it is virtually incomprehensible.

One trillion is one thousand billions or one million millions. We can sort of wrap our heads around one million... that's sort of what we associate with being rich and we can generally comprehend what it could buy. But one trillion? One million millions?

Let's take the US National Debt. It stands at a little over \$13.5 trillion and is increasing at a rate of about \$1000 per second. Now, we can all imagine \$1000; but if someone were to slap \$1000 a second on your lap:

- You could still fit it in your pocket after 10 seconds (\$10,000)
- You would need a grocery bag after 16 minutes and you would be a millionaire (\$1,000,000)
- You would need a pallet to move the block of cash after about 70 days (\$100,000,000)
- ... notice we haven't reached one billion yet...
- In just under 2 years you would have 10 of these pallets and, besides being obscenely rich, you would be in possession of \$1 billion (\$1,000,000,000)
- In about 1,903 years, the average current life span of 28 people combined, you would have 10,000 pallets totaling \$1 trillion (\$1,000,000,000,000)
- And after being handed \$1000 per second for 25,691 years, 5 times the length of recorded human history, you could finally pay off the US National Debt... whew!



What it Buys:

Besides helping to pay off the US National Debt, what can you buy with \$1 trillion?

- **40,816,326 New Cars** – about 30% of all the cars operating in the US (excluding trucks and SUVs)
- **5,574,136 Typical American Homes** – about 14% of houses in the US
- **140 Billion Hours of Labor** – about 2.8 million, full-time, minimum wage jobs... for 23 years
- **Cover Average Year's Salary for 14.7 Million Teachers** – about twice the number of teachers in the US
- **The Annual Salary of All 535 Members of Congress** – for the next 10,742 years
- **1.33 Trillion Chocolate Bars** – weighing in at more than 150,000 airliners
- **1,333 Celebrity Divorce Settlements**
- **Cover Annual Base Pay for 59.5 Million Army Privates** – more than 100 times the number of current active-duty soldiers
- **Cover Annual Household Income for 19.2 American Families** – about 27% of American households
- **Pay the Estate Taxes of 2,222 Billionaires**
- **Pay the Rent for Every US Renter for 3 Years** – or cover every US homeowner's mortgage for 14 months
- **Pay for Every US Military Intervention and War** – since 9/11/2001



Just For Laughs

The Truck Driver

A truck driver was driving along on the freeway and noticed a sign that read "Low Bridge Ahead." Before he knows it, the bridge is right in front of him and his truck gets wedged under it.

Cars are backed up for miles. Finally, a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says: "Got stuck, huh?"

The truck driver says: "No, I was delivering this bridge and I ran out of gas."

The Red Head

A red head goes in to see her doctor and says: "Doc, every time that I touch my body I feel pain."

The doctor responds: "That's not good, would you please show me?"

The red head then touches her shoulder and screams in pain. Then she touches her arm and again screams in pain. Next she touches her stomach and screams out in agony.

The doctor asks: "You're not really a red head, are you?"

"No, I'm not. I'm a blond."

The doctor responds: "I thought so... your finger is broken."



The Tale

The Argument

What had happened? Nothing particularly original. We had a fight, our first, nothing more or less annihilating than that.

What had overcharged the rhetoric and ignited the resentment was of course her role of mother's daughter rubbing against mine of father's son --- our first fight hadn't even been ours.

But then the battle initially rocking most marriages is usually just that: fought by surrogates for real antagonists whose conflict is never rooted in the here and now but sometimes originates so far back that all that remains of the grandparents' values are the newlyweds' ugly words.

Virginal they may wish to be, but the worm in the dream is always the past, that impediment to all renewal.

~ Roth, Philip

(From The Counterlife)

WORD WEIRD

LEIOTRICHOUS : Having straight hair.

ETYMOLOGY: from Greek *leios*, smooth, plus *trikhos*, hair

FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER? WISH TO RECEIVE IT BY EMAIL?

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