



Foot and ankle surgeons are often called upon to provide expert witness testimony in medical malpractice and other legal matters. ACFAS acknowledges the obligation of Fellows to offer fair and accurate expertise and testimony based on science and evidence. By signing this Affirmation Statement, foot and ankle surgeons formally recognize their responsibility to act professionally when offering their expertise in legal proceedings.

ACFAS will not accept an Affirmation Statement that has been altered. The Affirmation Statement shall expire only upon a written rescinding of the signature.

Expert Witness Affirmation Statement

As a Fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS), I affirm my duty, when giving evidence or testifying as an expert witness, to do so solely in accordance with the merits of the case. Furthermore, I will uphold the following professional principles in providing expert evidence or witness testimony:

- 1) I will always be truthful and will conduct a thorough, fair and impartial review of the facts and the medical care provided, not excluding any relevant information.
- 2) I will provide evidence or testify only in matters in which I have relevant clinical experience in the areas of medicine that are the subject of the proceeding. I acknowledge, when testifying as a medical expert, I am engaged in the practice of medicine.
- 3) I will evaluate the medical care provided in light of generally accepted standards of practice prevailing at the time of the occurrence, and indicate when my beliefs may differ from standards of practice prevailing at the time of the occurrence or when my beliefs differ from generally accepted theories of medical science. I will not adopt a position of advocacy except as spokesperson for the field of special knowledge I represent.
- 4) I will be prepared to state the basis of where my opinion varies from generally accepted standards that prevailed at the time of the occurrence.
- 5) I will make a clear distinction between actual negligence and an unfortunate medical outcome, making every effort to determine whether there is a causal relationship between any alleged substandard practice and the adverse outcome.
- 6) I will provide evidence or testimony that is complete, objective, scientifically based, and helpful to a fair resolution of the proceeding.
- 7) I will accept and facilitate the peer review of medical expert testimony. I will be prepared for my testimony to be scrutinized and challenged by opposing counsel, professional organizations, hospitals, peer review bodies and state podiatric and/or licensing boards, as appropriate.
- 8) I will not accept compensation that is contingent upon the outcome of the litigation. Compensation for expert testimony should be reasonable and commensurate with the time and effort required.

Print name clearly _____

Signature _____

Date _____