

Frequently asked questions (FAQ's) that ISA has received about the Certified Arborist Code of Ethics

What is the Certified Arborist Code of Ethics?

It was determined that the Certified Arborist Program required a reasonable ethics program, including a statement of the minimum standards of conduct. The Certified Arborist Code of Ethics and the Arborist Agreement were established in 2009 as a means to achieve this, and further enhance the reputation and credibility of the Certified Arborist credential. In addition, it serves to meet the requirements of the Certified Arborist ANSI accreditation, which in turn strengthen the value of the credential holder's certification.

What does the Certified Arborist Code of Ethics do for me?

The Certified Arborist Code of Ethics serves as a central reference guide for Certified Arborists in support of their day-to-day decision making in the tree-care profession. It is meant to define our organization's mission, values and principles, linking them with standards of professional conduct and industry standards. This document will be an important communication tool to help sustain consistency around the world and create an even playing field for all Certified Arborists.

What does ISA do with the information that I give out in the Certified Arborist Agreement?

All of the information disclosed in the Certified Arborist Agreement is strictly confidential and is maintained internally by the International Society of Arboriculture. It is not shared, sold or otherwise distributed to other entities, public or private. The information provided is only reviewed by the ISA Certification Program and other authorized representatives under the applicable ethics rules. Again, information is NOT released or shared.

Why do you need to know information that I believe to be private and personal, such as criminal history, prior convictions, etc.

The information that ISA is required to obtain is public record and is by no means used against you in any way. This information would only be referenced if an ethical complaint arises and we would review your agreement for a history of reoccurring unethical behavior.

What happens if I refuse sign the agreement?

Submission of the required signed agreement is a necessary and appropriate condition of those seeking new certification as well as those maintaining their certification. Failure to provide the required information may result in certification discipline and/or sanctions under the Certification Program Appeals Policy. This may lead to certifications being revoked or suspended.

Who can I talk to if I want more information?

You may contact the ISA Certification Department, 1-888-ISA-TREE or write to cert@isa-arbor.com