

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

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Authored By: Practitioner Committee

BACKGROUND: The purpose of this statement is to provide OSINT professionals with the foundational principles for safe and ethical OSINT exploitation. The Practitioner Committee determined that an aspirational statement of professional principles is a critical baseline for the discipline.

APPLICABILITY: The following is applicable for OSINT practitioners in and supporting the U.S. Intelligence Community. The information contained herein is instructive, but not necessarily applicable to non-U.S. Intelligence Community activities.

PRINCIPLES FOR OSINT PROFESSIONALS

- 1. INTEGRITY:** Seek truth and provide unbiased, objective information, while ensuring all actions reflect positively on the OSINT profession.
- 2. LEGALITY:** Comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and governance documents while conducting OSINT activities, and respecting privacy, civil liberties, and human rights obligations.
- 3. TRANSPARENCY:** Clearly cite the sources used in OSINT collection while protecting at-risk sources and methods.
- 4. DILIGENCE:** Strive for excellence via established best practices and policies while constantly seeking to enhance the quality, accuracy, timeliness, and relevance of the information collected and OSINT produced.
- 5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Continuously improve skills and knowledge, collaborate with colleagues, share best practices, and stay up-to-date with emerging tools and technologies.

ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION:

Regarding the wording under the integrity principle, reporting the existence of false or biased statements and claims by third parties is objective reporting.