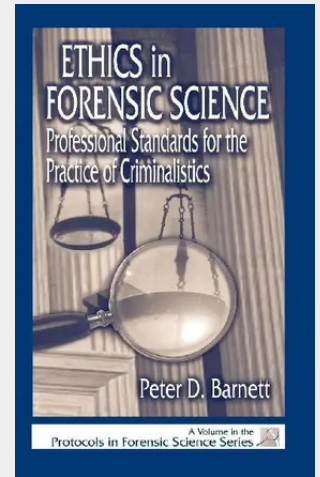


Ethics in Forensic Science

Professional Standards for the Practice of Criminalistics

With the complexity of the interactions between the methodology of science, the principles of justice, and the realities of the practice of law and criminalistics, ethical issues frequently arise. One of the hallmarks of a profession is a code of ethics to govern the actions of members of the profession with one another, with users of the professional service, and with those who are affected by actions of the practitioner. Ethics in Forensic Science: Professional Standards for the Practice of Criminalistics examines the necessity for a code of ethics for forensic scientists, describes the fundamental features of such an ethical code, illustrates some ethical conflicts that arise in the course of professional practice, and gives examples of resolution of some of these conflicts. This volume also describes the development of alternative ethical codes that have been adopted by forensic science organizations. It explores the strengths and weaknesses of varied codes and provides concrete examples that illustrate alternative courses of action that might be taken and how different codes of ethics may require, permit, or proscribe alternatives under consideration.

Intense discussion exists concerning what constitutes professional conduct for scientists whose decisions in the laboratory can mean death for someone in the courtroom. This volume reviews the rationale for a code of ethics, makes recommendations for appropriate scientist/advocate relations, and provides examples of practical application of ethics in forensic science. The book describes the development of alternative ethical codes that have been adopted by various forensic science organizations and explores the strengths and weaknesses of these codes.



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