

# **Code of Business Conduct and Corporate Ethics**

## **22nd Century Group, Inc.**

### **A. Scope.**

This Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applies to all directors, officers and employees of 22nd Century Group, Inc. (the “Company”). Such directors, officers and employees are referred to herein collectively as the “Covered Parties.”

### **B. Purpose.**

This Code of Business Conduct and Ethics serves to (1) emphasize the Company’s commitment to ethics and compliance with the law; (2) set forth basic standards of ethical and legal behavior; (3) provide reporting mechanisms for known or suspected ethical or legal violations; and (4) help prevent and detect wrongdoing.

Given the variety and complexity of ethical questions that may arise in the Company’s course of business, this Code of Business Conduct and Ethics serves only as a rough guide. Confronted with ethically ambiguous situations, the Covered Parties should remember the Company’s commitment to the highest ethical standards and seek advice from supervisors, managers or other appropriate personnel to ensure that all actions they take on behalf of the Company honor this commitment.

### **C. Ethical Standards.**

#### **1. Conflicts of Interest.**

A conflict of interest exists when a person’s private interest interferes in any way with the interests of the Company. A conflict can arise when a Covered Party takes actions or has interests that may make it difficult to perform his or her work for the Company objectively and effectively. Conflicts of interest may also arise when a Covered Party, or members of his or her family, receives improper personal benefits as a result of his or her position at the Company. Loans to, or guarantees of obligations of, Covered Parties and their family members may create conflicts of interest. It is almost always a conflict of interest for a Covered Party to work simultaneously for a competitor, customer or supplier.

Conflicts of interest may not always be clear-cut, so if you have a question, you should consult with your supervisor or manager or, if circumstances warrant, the chief executive officer of the Company. Any Covered Party who becomes aware of a conflict or potential conflict should bring it to the attention of a supervisor manager or other appropriate personnel or consult with procedures described in Section E of this Code.

All directors and executive officers of the Company, and the chief executive officers and chief financial officers of the Company’s subsidiaries, shall disclose any material transaction or relationship that reasonably could be expected to give rise to such a conflict to the Chairman of the Company’s Board of Directors. No action may be taken with respect to such transaction or party unless and until such action has been approved by the Board of Directors.

#### **2. Corporate Opportunities.**

Covered Parties are prohibited from taking for themselves opportunities that are discovered through the use of corporate property, information or position without the consent of the Board of Directors of the Company. No Covered Party may use corporate property, information or position for improper personal gain and no employee may compete with the Company directly or indirectly. Covered Parties owe a duty to the Company to advance its legitimate interests whenever possible.

### **3. Fair Dealing**

Covered Parties shall behave honestly and ethically at all times and with all people. They shall act in good faith, with due care, and shall engage only in fair and open competition, by treating ethically competitors, suppliers, customers, and colleagues. Stealing proprietary information, possessing trade secret information that was obtained without the owner's consent, or inducing such disclosures by past or present employees of other companies is prohibited. No Covered Party should take unfair advantage of anyone through manipulation, concealment, abuse of privileged information, misrepresentation of material facts, or any other unfair practice.

The purpose of business entertainment and gifts in a commercial setting is to create good will and sound working relationships, not to gain unfair advantage with customers. No gift or entertainment should ever be offered or accepted by a Covered Party or any family member of a Covered Party unless it (1) is consistent with customary business practices, (2) is not excessive in value, (3) cannot be construed as a bribe or payoff and (4) does not violate any laws or regulations. The offer or acceptance of cash gifts by any Covered Party is prohibited. Covered Parties should discuss with their supervisors, managers or other appropriate personnel any gifts or proposed gifts which they think may be inappropriate.

### **4. Confidentiality.**

Covered Parties must maintain the confidentiality of confidential information entrusted to them, except when disclosure is authorized by an appropriate legal officer of the Company or required by laws or regulations. Confidential information includes all non-public information that might be of use to competitors or harmful to the Company or its customers if disclosed. It also includes information that suppliers and customers have entrusted to the Company. The obligation to preserve confidential information continues even after employment ends.

### **5. Protection and Proper Use of Company Assets.**

All Covered Parties should endeavor to protect the Company's assets and ensure their efficient use. Theft, carelessness, and waste have a direct impact on the Company's profitability. Any suspected incident of fraud or theft should be immediately reported for investigation. The Company's equipment should not be used for non-Company business, though incidental personal use is permitted.

The obligation of Covered Parties to protect the Company's assets includes its proprietary information. Proprietary information includes intellectual property such as trade secrets, patents, trademarks, and copyrights, as well as business, marketing and service plans, engineering and manufacturing ideas, designs, databases, records, salary information and any unpublished financial data and reports. Unauthorized use or distribution of this information would violate Company policy. It could also be illegal and result in civil or criminal penalties.

### **6. Compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations**

Obedying the law, both in letter and in spirit, is the foundation on which the Company's ethical standards are built. In conducting the business of the Company, the Covered Parties shall comply with applicable governmental laws, rules and regulations at all levels of government in the United States and in any non-U.S. jurisdiction in which the Company does business. Although not all Covered Parties are expected to know the details of these laws, it is important to know enough about the applicable local, state and national laws to determine when to seek advice from supervisors, managers or other appropriate personnel.

### **7. Timely and Truthful Public Disclosure.**

In reports and documents filed with or submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulators by the Company, and in other public communications made by the Company, the Covered Parties involved in the preparation of such reports and documents (including those who are involved in the preparation of financial or other reports and the

information included in such reports and documents) shall make disclosures that are full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable. Where applicable, these Covered Parties shall provide thorough and accurate financial and accounting data for inclusion in such disclosures. They shall not knowingly conceal or falsify information, misrepresent material facts or omit material facts necessary to avoid misleading the Company's independent public auditors or investors.

## **D. Waivers.**

Any waiver of this Code for executive officers or directors may be made only by the Company's Board of Directors and will be promptly disclosed as required by law or stock exchange regulation.

## **E. Violations of Ethical Standards.**

### **1. Reporting Known or Suspected Violations.**

The Company's directors, CEO and senior financial officers shall promptly report any known or suspected violations of this Code to the Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors. All other Covered Parties should talk to supervisors, managers or other appropriate personnel about known or suspected illegal or unethical behavior. No retaliatory action of any kind will be permitted against anyone making such a report in good faith, and the Company's Board of Directors will strictly enforce this prohibition.

### **2. Accountability for Violations**

If the Company's Board of Directors determines that this Code has been violated, either directly, by failure to report a violation, or by withholding information related to a violation, the offending Covered Party may be disciplined for non-compliance with penalties up to and including removal from office or dismissal. Such penalties may include written notices to the individual involved that a violation has been determined, censure by the Board of Directors, demotion or re-assignment of the individual involved and suspension with or without pay or benefits. Violations of this Code may also constitute violations of law and may result in criminal penalties and civil liabilities for the offending Covered Party and the Company. All Covered Parties are expected to cooperate in internal investigations of misconduct.

## **F. Compliance Procedures**

We must all work together to ensure prompt and consistent action against violations of this Code. In some situations, however, it is difficult to know if a violation has occurred. Because we cannot anticipate every situation that will arise, it is important that we have a way to approach a new question or problem. These are the steps to keep in mind:

- Make sure you have all the facts. In order to reach the right solutions, we must be as informed as possible.
- Ask yourself: What specifically am I being asked to do: Does it seem unethical or improper? Use your judgment and common sense. If something seems unethical or improper, it probably is.
- Clarify your responsibility and role. In most situations, there is shared responsibility. Are your colleagues informed? It may help to get others involved and discuss the problem.
- Discuss the problem with your supervisor. This is the basic guidance for all situations. In many cases, your supervisor will be more knowledgeable about the questions, and he or she will appreciate being consulted as part of the decision-making process.
- Seek help from Company resources. In rare cases where it would be inappropriate or uncomfortable to discuss an issue with your supervisor, or where you believe your supervisor has given you an inappropriate answer, discuss it locally with your office manager or your human resources manager.
- You may report ethical violations in confidence without fear of retaliation. If your situation requires that your identity be kept secret, your anonymity will be protected to the maximum extent consistent with the Company's legal obligations. The Company in all circumstances prohibits retaliation of any kind against those who report.

## G. Ethics Hotline Policy

To assure ongoing adherence to the Code of Business Conduct and Corporate Ethics, the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors, has established an Ethics Hotline Policy to provide an avenue for employees to raise complaints or concerns relating to violations or alleged violations of this Code of Business Conduct and Corporate Ethics. This policy applies to all employees of 22nd Century Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including part time, temporary and contract employees.

22nd Century is committed to the highest possible standards of ethical, moral and legal business conduct. In conjunction with this commitment and 22nd Century's commitment to open communication, this policy aims to provide an avenue for employees to raise concerns with reassurance that they will be protected from reprisals or victimization for reporting a concern in good faith.

This Ethics Hotline Policy is intended to cover serious concerns that could have a large impact on 22nd Century Group, Inc., such as actions that (1) are unlawful, (2) may lead to incorrect financial reporting, (3) are not in line with company policy, including this Code of Business Conduct and Corporate Ethics, or (4) otherwise amount to serious improper conduct. Regular business matters that do not require anonymity should be directed to the employee's supervisor and are not addressed by this policy.

There are safeguards in the policy to address harassment or victimization and to maintain confidentiality and anonymity. Harassment or victimization of individuals submitting a hotline report will not be tolerated. Every effort will be made to protect the reporter's identity by our hotline vendor, Lighthouse Services, and the policy allows employees to remain anonymous at their option. Any malicious allegations may result in disciplinary action.

The Ethics Hotline procedure is intended to be used for serious issues. Serious concerns relating to financial reporting, unethical or illegal conduct should be reported in either of the following two ways:

- Toll-free telephone – (844) 490-0002 (English speaking USA and Canada)
- E-mail to [reports@lighthouse-services.com](mailto:reports@lighthouse-services.com) (must include company name with the report)

Reporters to the Ethics Hotline can remain anonymous if they choose. Please note that the information provided by you may be the basis of an internal and/or external investigation into the issue you are reporting and your anonymity will be protected to the extent possible by law. However, your identity may become known during the investigation because of the information you provided. Reports are submitted by Lighthouse Services to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of 22nd Century, and may or may not be investigated at the sole discretion of the Audit Committee. The action taken will depend on the nature of the reported concern or complaint.

The individual submitting the report will be given the opportunity to receive follow-up information relating to their concern or complaint.