

## Table 1

### 1934 Pledge of the American Association of Medical Record Librarians

The responsibility to protect privacy was clearly defined in the 1934 Pledge of the American Association of Medical Record Librarians. This pledge was written and read by Grace Whiting Myers at the first annual professional association meeting in Boston as follows:

*I pledge myself to give out no information from any clinical record placed in my charge, or from any other source to any person whatsoever, except upon order from the chief executive officer of the institution which I may be serving.*

The pledge was expanded in 1935 as follows:

*RECOGNIZING that the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL RECORD LIBRARIANS seeks to develop and enforce the highest standards of work among its members, I hereby pledge myself, as a condition of membership, to conduct myself in accordance with all its principles and regulations.*

*IN PARTICULAR, I pledge myself to pursue the practice of my profession in a spirit of unselfishness, and of loyalty to the Association and to the institution which I am called to serve; to bear always in mind a keen realization of my responsibility; to seek constantly a wider knowledge of my profession through serious study, through instruction by competent approved teachers, throughout interchange of opinion among associates, and by attendance at meetings of this and of allied associations; to regard scrupulously the interests and rights of my fellow-members, and to seek counsel among them when in doubt of my own judgment.*

*MOREOVER, I pledge myself to give out no information concerning a patient from any clinical record placed in my charge, or from any other source, to any person whatsoever, except upon order from the chief executive officer of the institution which I may be serving; and to avoid all commercialization of my work.*

*FINALLY, I pledge myself to co-operate in advancing and extending by every lawful means within my power, the influence of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL RECORD LIBRARIANS.*

Sources: Huffman, E. K. *Manual for Medical Record Librarians*. 6th ed. Chicago: Physician's Record Company, 1972, p. 135; Harman, L. B., and V. L. Mullen. "Professional Values and the Code of Ethics." In L. B. Harman (Editor), *Ethical Challenges in the Management of Health Information*. 2nd ed. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2006, p. 10.