

***Paranormal “U”*****Responsibilities, Obligations, and Ethics of Paranormal Investigating**

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What are the responsibilities, ethics, and obligations for a paranormal investigation team? I'm sure the answer to this can vary, not only from team to team, but person to person. You also will have more responsibilities and obligations if you deal with clients and what services you provide.

As a paranormal investigator you must consider what is ethical. To do that you first need to understand Ethics. Ethics, as defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation. Ethics are a set of moral principles for conduct that govern an individual or group. In some cases, ethics means to conform to accepted standards of conduct. If we boil that all down it basically means conducting yourself in a moral manner and doing what is right. Do the right thing! Watch what you say to the client. Watch what you do! Scrutinize your own work.

As a paranormal investigator you have certain responsibilities to yourself, your team, this field, and if you deal with clients...your clients. Such as:

- Have permission to go into every location you investigate, in writing. Never trespass! If the owner of a location says, no, to your investigation request respect that. If you don't know who owns the location, then don't enter it.
- Do NOT provide/offer services you aren't trained in or equipped to offer. Clients look to you to be an expert, which we know there is no such thing in this field, but you should try to provide them with the best services possible. If you don't have training on being a demonologist...don't say you are a demonologist.
- Careful with those titles. There are no accredited schools, certifications, licenses, etc. for this field. Hopefully some day that will change. In the mean time stay up on your training, but be careful how you label yourself.
- No provoking. We at TnT Paranormal believe you have an obligation to your client and the dead to be respectful and not provoke. You don't want to make things worse on the client and/or the location. To learn more see our article on [Provoking and Use of Trigger Objects](#).
- Be accountable for your actions. This includes what you say to the client, other teams, put on social media, and any issues that came up at the location, such as a broken item. We carry liability insurance to assist us in case something does get broken or damaged.
- Provide an honest and accurate account of your experiences and the investigation. Don't elaborate and exaggerate what happened. That is how urban legends are born. Plus you know what happened to the boy that cried wolf!
- Know and understand how your equipment works. If you don't know how to use a piece of equipment...don't use it. If you don't understand what it does...don't use it. Some equipment get a lot of false positives, so learn those.
- Be professional at all times. Remember your actions represent: you; your team; and this field.
- No drinking or drugs before or during an investigation. There are many reasons this is wrong and dangerous.
- Treat the location with respect. Make sure to pick up after yourself and leave what you found there...there! Be mindful of and follow

## Bumps in the Night!!!!

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the rules of the location.

If you are a paranormal investigator that deals with client cases you also have obligations you should adhere to, such as:

- Never **charge** a client for services rendered. Since you can't prove, with 100% certainty, anything in this field, how can you charge for that. With professions like plumbing and electricians you can prove you fixed a broken faucet or outlet. But since it has not been proven that entities exist, how can you prove you “removed an entity” or “communicate with a ghost”.
- Honor all commitments you have made to the client and your team. There is nothing worse than scheduling an investigation with a client only to cancel on them.
- Do **NOT** say something to the client that will make things worse. Keep in mind most clients are scared and anxious about what is going on...don't tell them their house is haunted if you can't say for sure the house is haunted. Even if you get an EVP how do you know the house is haunted versus the land versus it being tied to an object at the location. Just always try to keep your client in mind and put yourself in their shoes.
- Make sure to obey all local, city, state, and federal laws, as well as follow rules for the location.
- If you deal with clients especially conduct background checks on all members; making sure to include searches of sex offender listings. You want to know this information for both your team and your clients safety.
- Be respectful and honor the confidentiality agreed to with the client. We have a rule to not discuss the specifics of a client cases outside of the team and to **never** publish or share the clients name, address, or specific information to the Internet, Facebook, or other social media outlet. We even use a generic case number for all cases so that it keeps the client confidentiality.
- Turn around the data review as quickly as possible. I know with jobs, families, and lives it can be difficult. But if you are too busy to review the data from a client investigation, then you should not have conducted the investigation in the first space.
- Under no circumstances should you fake your data and/or evidence. Remember that you only have one reputation and once it is gone it's gone. Faking data is quickest way to tarnish it and there is nothing worth that.

I know a lot of us just do this for fun...but if you deal with clients you do have an additional set of rules to follow. You have to be even more mindful of your responsibilities and obligations. The rule of thumb I use during an investigation is to act how I would want a team to act at my house. With my possible loved one. With my needs. I always try to be polite, not just to the client, but the possible entities that are there. I try to be mindful of the feelings of the client and the possible entities. You may not always be able to do this 100% of the time, but at least put your best foot forward.

Here's to Happy, Healthy, Responsible, Ethical, and fulfilling your Obligations Investigating! Good luck until next time.....

