The German Informatics Society (GI) is a registered non-profit organization. With these guidelines, the GI seeks to establish that matters of professional ethics or moral conflicts become the subject of collaborative reflection and action. The guidelines are designed to offer a point of orientation not only to members of the GI association, but to all persons involved in the design, manufacture, operation or use of IT systems.

The ethical guidelines outlined herein express the intent of GI members to conduct themselves in accordance with the values that form the basis of Basic Law for the Federal Republic of German and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The GI and its members are committed to adhering to these guidelines. They also seek to assure that these guidelines find acknowledgement in public discourse outside the GI.

GI members are especially committed to respecting and protecting human dignity. Whenever norms of the state, society or the private sphere come into conflict with these values, GI members must address the issue.

GI members conduct themselves in such a way as to advocate for the right to self-determination in information and communications technologies, and for the right to guarantee confidentiality and integrity of IT systems.

GI members advocate for discrimination-free organizational structures which take into consideration the divergent needs and diversity of all human beings in the design, manufacture, operation and use of IT systems.

GI members seek to engage and educate the public in discourse concerning the ethical and moral issues pertinent to their individual and institutional conduct. In a networked world, it is imperative that all potential courses of action be subject to interdisciplinary consideration regarding their foreseeable impact and potential consequences. This is the challenge for each of our members.

The fact that the guidelines established here are as open as they are is testimony to the fact that moral conduct cannot be governed by a definitive code of ethics or stringent regulations.