

# Association Management Specialist<sup>®</sup> (AMS<sup>®</sup>) Designation Application

## Prerequisites

- A minimum of two years experience in community association management.
- Successfully passed at least two 200-level courses (M-201–M-206).
- Successfully passed the CMCA exam administered by CAMICB.

## Application Instructions

- Fill in this application with Adobe Acrobat Reader or print clearly in ink. To work in Reader: save the file on your computer's desktop, complete the form, and save again using your last name in the filename (e.g., AMS\_Jones.pdf) before printing. If additional pages are needed, please label clearly and attach to this application.
- Be honest, accurate and thorough in completing all sections of this application. Be certain to:
  - List your employment history showing the required two years of experience and indicate the specific duties you performed.
  - Read and sign the CAI Professional Manager Code of Ethics.
  - Make a copy of your application for your records.
- Submit completed application with non-refundable application fee to CAI Headquarters, 6402 Arlington Blvd., Suite 500, Falls Church, VA 22042, or e-mail to [payments@caionline.org](mailto:payments@caionline.org).  
Fees: \$170 for individual manager members of CAI and \$405 for non-members  
*CAI reserves the right to modify the AMS fees and criteria as stated above.*

# General Information

If you are paying by credit card, please complete this form and then submit the application by e-mail to payments@caionline.org. If you are paying with a check, please complete this form on a computer, print and then sign. Mail the printed and signed application with your payment to the address shown on page one.

## Candidate Information

▼ CAI MEMBER NUMBER

▼ FIRST NAME AND MIDDLE INITIAL

▼ LAST NAME AND SUFFIX

▼ HOME ADDRESS

▼ CITY ▼ STATE ▼ ZIP

▼ CURRENT TITLE

▼ FIRM/ASSOCIATION

▼ BUSINESS ADDRESS

▼ CITY ▼ STATE ▼ ZIP

▼ PREFERRED E-MAIL ADDRESS

▼ HOME PHONE ▼ MOBILE PHONE

▼ BUSINESS PHONE

## Payment Information

MEMBER \$170 (INDIVIDUAL MANAGER MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED FOR MEMBER APPLICATION RATE)    NON-MEMBER \$405

CHECK ENCLOSED (PAYABLE TO CAI)    VISA    MASTERCARD    AMEX    DISCOVER

▼ CARD NUMBER ▼ EXP. DATE

▼ NAME ON CARD

▼ BILLING ADDRESS

▼ CITY ▼ STATE ▼ ZIP

▼ SIGNATURE

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# I. Education Requirement

## CAI Course Requirements

Passage of two M-200 series courses are required for the AMS designation. Please indicate the city, month and year each course was taken.

	▼ DATE (MM/YY)		▼ CITY
M-201	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> ONLINE OR	<input type="text"/>
M-202	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> ONLINE OR	<input type="text"/>
M-203	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> ONLINE OR	<input type="text"/>
M-204	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> ONLINE OR	<input type="text"/>
M-205	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> ONLINE OR	<input type="text"/>
M-206	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> ONLINE OR	<input type="text"/>

## CMCA Examination Requirement

Please enter the following information for the CMCA examination you have successfully completed.

DATE CMCA CERTIFICATION AWARDED (MM/YY)	<input type="text"/>
CMCA CERTIFICATE NUMBER	<input type="text"/>

# II. Employment History

A community association manager will have the knowledge, ethics, professionalism and skills with a **minimum of two years verified experience** in community association management, either commercial or residential. The community association manager must be compensated for providing professional guidance and assistance to the board of directors of any association(s) managed by that community association manager, whether the individual is acting as an full time independent contractor, or as an employee of a management firm, or as a general manager or executive director of a common interest development. Management of property other than community associations will not meet the qualifications for community association manager.

*If one association does not cover the required two years experience, add each association you provided service to so that experience totaling at least two years is illustrated. Any overlapping time stated on the forms will only be counted once. If you are a portfolio manager, you must request information from a specific association you provide service to. Please do not simply list your company's information.*

▼ FIRM (IF APPLICABLE)  
 [Grid for firm name]

▼ NAME OF ASSOCIATION  
 [Grid for association name]

▼ ASSOCIATION ADDRESS  
 [Grid for association address]

▼ CITY [Grid] ▼ STATE [Grid] ▼ ZIP [Grid]

▼ BOARD MEMBER NAME  
 [Grid for board member name]

▼ PHONE NUMBER [Grid] ▼ OFFICE THEY HELD WHEN YOU SERVED AS MANAGER [Grid]

DATES PROVIDED SERVICE ▼ FROM DATE (MM/YY) [Grid] ▼ TO DATE (MM/YY) OR  PRESENT [Grid]

▼ FIRM (IF APPLICABLE)  
 [Grid for firm name]

▼ NAME OF ASSOCIATION  
 [Grid for association name]

▼ ASSOCIATION ADDRESS  
 [Grid for association address]

▼ CITY [Grid] ▼ STATE [Grid] ▼ ZIP [Grid]

▼ BOARD MEMBER NAME  
 [Grid for board member name]

▼ PHONE NUMBER [Grid] ▼ OFFICE THEY HELD WHEN YOU SERVED AS MANAGER [Grid]

DATES PROVIDED SERVICE ▼ FROM DATE (MM/YY) [Grid] ▼ TO DATE (MM/YY) OR  PRESENT [Grid]

## II. Employment History (continued)

▼ FIRM (IF APPLICABLE)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

▼ NAME OF ASSOCIATION  
 \_\_\_\_\_

▼ ASSOCIATION ADDRESS  
 \_\_\_\_\_

▼ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ▼ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ▼ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

▼ BOARD MEMBER NAME  
 \_\_\_\_\_

▼ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ ▼ OFFICE THEY HELD WHEN YOU SERVED AS MANAGER \_\_\_\_\_

DATES PROVIDED SERVICE ▼ FROM DATE (MM/YY) ▼ TO DATE (MM/YY) OR  PRESENT  
 \_\_\_\_\_

▼ FIRM (IF APPLICABLE)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

▼ NAME OF ASSOCIATION  
 \_\_\_\_\_

▼ ASSOCIATION ADDRESS  
 \_\_\_\_\_

▼ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ▼ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ▼ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

▼ BOARD MEMBER NAME  
 \_\_\_\_\_

▼ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ ▼ OFFICE THEY HELD WHEN YOU SERVED AS MANAGER \_\_\_\_\_

DATES PROVIDED SERVICE ▼ FROM DATE (MM/YY) ▼ TO DATE (MM/YY) OR  PRESENT  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Initial those services below which you performed at the above associations:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Development or assisting in development of a budget
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bidding for, purchasing, or evaluating insurance policies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supervision of association contractors or employees
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review and use of association financial statements
- \_\_\_\_\_ Preparation of association-related reports and correspondence
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conducting and performing follow-up of site inspections

Please explain why, if any of, the above services were not performed:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# III. Community Associations Institute Professional Manager Code of Ethics

The Manager Shall:

1. Comply with current bylaws, standards and practices as may be established from time to time by CAI and all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations in effect where the Manager practices.
2. Fulfill duties owed to CAI; including, but not limited to, completely and truthfully complete all applications and renewals, promptly notify CAI of any felony or misdemeanor convictions, judgments or consent decrees, loss of fiduciary liability coverage, loss of license to practice and/or disciplinary action by a professional organization and participate in continuing professional education through CAI and other industry related organizations.
3. Act in the best interests of the Client; refrain from making inaccurate or misleading representations or statements; not knowingly misrepresent facts to benefit the Manager
4. Undertake only those engagements that the Manager can reasonably expect to perform with professional competence.
5. Exercise due care and perform planning and supervision as specified in the written management agreement, job description or duly adopted CAI Board of Trustees policies.
6. Disclose all relationships in writing to the Client regarding any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest affecting any relationship between the manager and the Client. The Manager shall take all necessary steps to avoid any perception of favoritism or impropriety during the vendor selection process and negotiation of any contracts.
7. Provide prompt written disclosure to client of any compensation, gratuity, or other form of remuneration from individuals or companies who act or may act on behalf of the Client.
8. Ensure that Client homeowners receive timely communication and response as required by state statutes or legal documents and protect their right of appeal.
9. Disclose to the Client the extent of fidelity or other contractually required insurance carried on behalf of the Manager and/or Client and any subsequent changes in coverage, which occur during the Manager's engagement if the amount is lower than the contract amount requires.
10. See that the funds held for the Client by the Manager are held in a custodial manner only, are in separate accounts, are not misappropriated or commingled with funds of other clients and are returned to the Client at the end of the Manager's engagement in accordance with applicable terms and conditions. Prepare and furnish to the Client accurate and timely financial reports in accordance with the terms of the management agreement, job description or duly adopted Board policies.
11. Recognize the original records, files and books held by the Manager are the property of the Client to be returned to the Client at the end of the Manager's engagement upon request; maintain the duty of confidentiality to all current and former Clients.
12. Refrain from criticizing competitors or their business practices; act in the best interests of their employers; maintain a professional relationship with peers and industry related professionals.
13. Always conduct themselves in a professional manner when acting in the scope of the Manager's employment. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from behavior that would reasonably be perceived to be harassing, bullying, discriminatory or unethical.
14. Not engage in any form of anticompetitive conduct in violation of the antitrust laws, including price fixing.
15. Not use the work products of colleagues or competing management firms that are considered proprietary without the expressed written permission of the author or the management firm.

**Compliance with the Professional Manager Code of Ethics is further amplified in the Code Clarification Document provided by the Community Associations Institute.**

*Revised  
September 2006  
August 2021  
February 2024*

### III. Code Clarification Document

Last revised February 2024

#### A. Preamble

The CAI Manager Code of Ethics reflects the commitment that all CAI designation holder professionals make to high standards of competency and ethics. The CAI Manager Code of Ethics benefits and protects the public, provides standards for delivering community association management services, and advances community association management as a distinct and valuable profession. Compliance with the CAI Manager Code of Ethics is a requirement of holding CAI designations and accreditations and is critical to the integrity of AMS®, PCAM®, LSM®, and AAMC® marks. Violations of the Code may subject designation holder professionals and employers of designation holders to discipline.

#### B. Authority

The Code derives its authority from the Community Associations Institute (CAI). CAI's Board of Trustees has established a minimum standard of professional ethical performance for those individuals and companies who receive recognition or designations from CAI.

Those individuals or entities that apply for or hold professional designations from CAI are subject to this Code. Those designations include: AMS®, PCAM®, LSM®, and AAMC®.

#### C. Definitions

**Manager**—a singular term which shall apply to all the following persons or entities providing or offering some form of community association or financial or administrative or consulting services to one or more Clients:

- a. A single practitioner functioning as a client employee, or
- b. A single practitioner employed by a firm contracted by one or more Clients, or
- c. A principal or supervisory staff member for a firm which is contracted by one or more Clients, or
- d. A firm, which is contracted by one or more Clients, whether it is organized as a corporation, partnership, or other entity.

Because the Code is designed to establish a standard of conduct for the practice of managing community associations, it is equally applicable to individuals and firms. An individual who agrees to abide by this Code shall also be responsible to see that any other person or firm under their supervision shall comply with the Code.

**Client**—a singular term applying to one or more community association properties (condominium, homeowner association, cooperative, PUD, PRD, etc.) and their governing body. The Client may employ the Manager directly or through their company or be under some form of independent contract with the Manager or their company.

#### D. Amplification

To further explain and define the Code of Ethics, CAI provides the following information.

**The following explanations correspond to the numbered paragraphs in the Professional Manager Code of Ethics:**

1. **Current standards or practices** are those numbered one through fifteen in the Code. Managers who practice in states with legislative requirements must comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances. Managers shall not discriminate in any relationship, with any individual or firm, based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or handicap and shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws concerning discrimination. Managers shall not engage in any form of price fixing, anti-trust, or anti-competition with other Managers or vendors.
2. **Duty to CAI.** While CAI membership is not mandatory, the Manager must satisfy the designation requirement to use said designation. Additionally, the Manager has a duty to remain informed on relevant policies, procedures and practices related to the Manager's CAI membership.

The Manager has a duty to inform CAI within 30-days and provide official documentation and a detailed explanation of the following:

- Disciplinary action by any professional organization or licensing agency.
- Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor or imprisonment under sentence (except traffic violations).
- Liable finding or judgement or consent decree in civil court related to any business or professional matter (except for any domestic or family law case)
- Conviction of fraud, misrepresentation, or misappropriation of funds or property.
- Loss of ability to obtain fiduciary liability coverage.

### III. Code Clarification Document (continued)

3. **Act in the best interests of the Client;** Not make any inaccurate or misleading representations or statements to a prospective Client; Not knowingly misrepresent facts to benefit the Manager. The manager has a fiduciary duty/responsibility to the Client and should always act in the best interests of the Client. Managers should avoid exaggeration, misrepresentation, concealment, and knowingly distributing misinformation.
4. **Undertake only those engagements that they can reasonably expect to perform with professional competence.** The Manager shall provide accurate information within their area of expertise and refrain from the unauthorized practice of other professions. No manager should provide service or assistance that is outside their field of competence or licensure. For example, but not limitation, managers shall not provide legal, accounting, insurance, or engineering advice and must leave such advice to the appropriate, licensed professionals, including lawyers, insurance, engineers, and accountants. Unless these services are administrative in nature.
5. **Exercise due care and exhibit planning and supervision as specified in the written management agreement, job description, or duly adopted Board policies.** The intent of this statement is for the Manager to make a good faith effort to operate within the framework of the applicable employment/agent relationship and to abide by the terms of said agreement. Any failure of the Manager to fully comply with this requirement shall not be considered relevant unless the failure is material and/or willful.
6. **Disclosure of any possible conflict of interest** is the key here. An example may be of assistance. A Manager (individually or through a company) may have financial interest in a service contractor, supplier, or professional firm that is being considered by that Manager's Client. Disclosure must be in writing and sufficiently in advance of the selection process to allow full consideration of the possible conflicts and any alternatives. The fact that the Client may still choose the Manager's related entity is not a violation of the Code, provided ample disclosure was given.
7. a. **For Management Company Executives** — Provide annual disclosure (or upon execution of a new management agreement) all relationships with business partners or referral partners who the association is required to do business with under the management agreement for which the management company earns a commission, credit, payment, rebate, or other benefit. If the Association is not required to do business with a third party who provides consideration to the management company, disclosure shall be made to the Client prior to engaging a business partner who provides financial benefit to the management company.  
b. **For Community Managers** — Provide disclosure to the management company executive and Client of any compensation, gratuity, or other form of remuneration from individuals or companies who act or may act on behalf of the Client valued in excess of \$1,000 annually. Disclosure to the client shall be made prior to the Client engaging the business partner who provides remuneration.
8. CAI recognizes that **ensuring that homeowners have timely notice or that their appeal rights are protected** is limited by the extent that the Manager can influence their Client. Thus, a Manager who makes reasonable efforts to properly advise the Client has complied with this standard, even if the Client chooses to reject the Manager's advice.
9. **Disclose to the Client the extent of fidelity or other contractually required insurance carried on behalf of the Manager and/or Client and any subsequent changes in coverage, which occur during the Manager's engagement if the amount is lower than the contract amount requires.** This standard does not require the Manager to carry fidelity insurance unless an AAMC company or it is required by the contract. The change is based upon any decrease in contractually disclosed/required coverage and/or fidelity bond coverage.
10. **If the Manager is responsible for handling funds for a Client, that Client must have at least one independent cash account established in the Client's name.** This standard does not preclude a Manager from initially depositing payments into a central account with funds promptly distributed to individual Client accounts, nor does it prohibit a central disbursement or payroll account that is promptly reimbursed by each Client's individual cash account. When a Manager's engagement has ended for a Client, all funds must be returned to the Client the earlier of:
  - the time limit under state statute, or
  - the time limit in the existing management agreement, or
  - within 30 days of the end of the Manager's engagement (see also #12)The Manager shall prepare and furnish to the Client accurate and timely financial reports in accordance with the terms of the management agreement, job description or duly adopted Board policies.
11. Recognize the original records, files, and books held by the Manager are the property of the Client to be returned to the Client at the end of the manager's engagement upon request; maintain the duty of confidentiality to all current and former Clients specifically as it relates to confidential owner data and confidential (executive session) meeting information.



### III. Code Clarification Document (continued)

**Original records, files, and books** are those items that were given to the manager at the beginning of their engagement or were developed by the manager and/or the Client during the period of the manager's engagement. **Confidential owner data** is defined as any information about or related to the owner such as name, address, email, phone, banking account data, and any other personally identifiable information. **Property data** is defined as data which relates to the size, square footage, location, or valuation of property that may also be found in public record or real estate data sheets. These definitions may be further expanded by the management agreement.

Unless provided in such an agreement or otherwise, the manager has no obligation to provide the Client with Client-related computerized or cloud stored data unless the Client owns the computer and software, and such data can be separated from that data and software which are proprietary to the manager. For example, if the manager is a company that maintains homeowner information on its computer servers or other data storage system, the manager shall provide the homeowner information to the Client, in a generally acceptable electronic or digitized format. However, when the manager transfers Client data to Client, the manager must take all reasonable measures to secure the confidential nature of any confidential Client and owner data it stores to prevent unauthorized disclosure of such data.

Those items that the Manager brought to and used during the engagement, such as operation or procedure manuals, remain the property of the Manager. It is understood that property data which may be gathered or accumulated and disclosed to others whether or not to the benefit of the client is not a violation of this code.

While the Manager must turn over all records, files, and books, they may retain digitized or photocopies of those key materials that might be necessary for the Manager in dealing with post-engagement Client-related matters. Return of these items should be consistent with the schedule outlined in #10 above. The Manager shall maintain a **duty of confidentiality to all current and former Clients**, commencing the effective start date of the relationship and continuing through infinity.

12. **Refrain from criticizing competitors or their business practices; act in the best interests of their Employers; maintain a professional relationship with peers and industry related professionals.**
13. **Always conduct themselves in a professional manner when acting in the scope of the Manager's employment.** This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from behavior that would reasonably be perceived to be harassing, bullying, discriminatory or unethical.  
A manager shall:
  - Ensure that your appearance is appropriate/presentable for the professional circumstance.
  - Exhibit a polite demeanor toward clients.
  - Maintain professional communication with clients and residents.
  - Act with reasonable diligence and promptness.
  - Ensure work should reflect integrity and good faith.
  - Act with integrity, honesty, equity, and fairness to all persons.
14. **Not engage in any form of anticompetitive conduct in violation of the antitrust laws, including price fixing.** Subject to all Federal, State and Local statutes, laws, rules, and ordinances.
15. **Not use the work products of colleagues or competing management firms that are considered proprietary without the expressed written permission of the author or the management firm.** Work product that is posted on the internet, e-mailed, presented as part of an education session or industry-related networking exchanges are not considered proprietary unless they are clearly labeled as proprietary documents or subject to further protection under the copyright or registration. Lists of Clients along with their contact and confidential contract information that are maintained by a Management Company are considered proprietary.

#### E. Future

The Board of Trustees may expand application of this Code, and CAI reserves the right to update, or amend both the Professional Manager Code of Ethics and the Code Clarification Document. Any such revision, updating or amendment shall be promptly promulgated to CAI Manager members and, after due notice, will apply to all members subject to the Code.

#### F. E-mail as Official Correspondence

The Board of Trustees establishes e-mail as official correspondence in matters relating to alleged violations of CAI Professional Manager Code of Ethics. The CAI Designation Ethics Committee, Chief Executive Officer, or CAI staff designee may elect to notify and or update a designee of a complaint that has been filed against their designation by e-mail, and upon doing so will make effort in tracking delivery of correspondence to ensure the designee has the opportunity to respond.

### III. Code Clarification Document (continued)

#### G. Disciplinary Action

After an internal investigation and hearing as provided in CAI's Ethics Enforcement Procedures Policy, a Manager found to be in violation of this Code shall face a sanction in accordance with the enforcement policies adopted by the CAI Board of Trustees. The extent of such sanction shall be commensurate with the nature, severity, and intent of the violation. In a situation where a firm, principal(s) or supervisory staff are involved, sanctions may be imposed on more than one individual or the firm itself.

#### Please answer the following questions.

Have you ever been involved in reorganization for the benefit of creditors or in bankruptcy as a debtor? *If yes, attach a detailed explanation.*  YES  NO

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (equivalents thereof), or imprisoned under sentence for any felony or misdemeanor (except traffic violations)? *If yes, attach a detailed explanation.*  YES  NO

Have you been found liable or had a judgment or consent decree entered against you in civil court related to any business or professional matter or in any other civil case (with the exception of any domestic or family law, e.g., divorce or child custody)? *If yes, attach a detailed explanation and include a copy of the judgment entered against you.*  YES  NO

Have you ever been convicted of fraud, misrepresentation, misappropriation of funds or property? *If yes, attach a detailed explanation.*  YES  NO

Do you know of any reason why you would be unable to obtain bonding? *If yes, attach a detailed explanation.*  YES  NO

Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action by any professional organization? *If yes, attach a detailed explanation.*  YES  NO

#### Signature

By signing below, I agree to abide by the CAI Professional Manager Code of Ethics and to be subject to disciplinary action as adopted by the Board of Trustees. All of the information provided by me is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If I made or at any time make statements with knowledge of its falsity, I understand that it shall be cause for denial or revocation of the designation.

Further, if any circumstance changes my answer to any of the questions above, I will notify CAI Education/Credentialing Department by providing a written statement and detailed explanation within 30 days. I will address the statement and detailed explanation to: CAI Credentialing Department, 6402 Arlington Blvd., Suite 500, Falls Church, VA 22042 or [caieducation@caionline.org](mailto:caieducation@caionline.org).

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PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE



6402 Arlington Blvd., Suite 500  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
[www.caionline.org](http://www.caionline.org)  
(888) 224-4321