The ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct was recently updated, involving the participation of hundreds of professionals in countries around the world. Among ethical precepts in the Code are admonitions to “Be Honest and Trustworthy” and “Do No Harm.” ACM members are expected to uphold the Code, and behavior that does not follow the code is viewed as inconsistent with ACM membership. However, some people have job requirements that would seem to be at odds with parts of the code. For instance, a law enforcement professional might be masquerading as a juvenile online to identify and apprehend child predators.

In this talk, Gene will discuss the role of the Code and its development. He will also address how the code was developed with these special cases in mind, where there is a legal duty to perform acts that seem in dissonance with the code but in actuality are not.

Dr. Spafford’s current research interests are focused on issues of computer and network security, cybercrime and ethics, technology policy, and social impact of computing. He is the founder and executive director emeritus of the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security (CERIAS). This university-wide institute draws on expertise and research across many of the academic disciplines at Purdue.