

USPAP Q&A

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This communication by the Appraisal Standards Board (ASB) does not establish new standards or interpret existing standards. The ASB USPAP Q&A is issued to inform appraisers, regulators, and users of appraisal services of the ASB responses to questions raised by regulators and individuals; to illustrate the applicability of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) in specific situations; and to offer advice from the ASB for the resolution of appraisal issues and problems.

Disclosure of the Intended User in a Report

Question:

USPAP requires that each appraisal, appraisal review, or appraisal consulting report state the intended users of the assignment results. How can one determine if the intended user statement in a report is adequate?

Response:

USPAP requires disclosure of the intended users in order to ensure that:

1. The client and any other intended users can recognize their relationship to the assignment and report; and
2. Unintended users will not be misled by “putting them on notice” that they are neither the client nor an intended user.

Therefore, the statement regarding the intended users must be sufficient to accomplish these objectives. The appraiser is not obligated to identify an intended user by name. If identification by name is not appropriate or practical, the appraiser may identify an intended user by type.

STATEMENT 9, *Identification of Intended Use and Intended Users*, provides an example of a statement that may be appropriate for inclusion in a report:

This report is intended for use only by (identify the client) and (identify any other intended users by name or type). Use of this report by others is not intended by the appraiser.

Disclosure of the Intended Use in a Report

Question:

USPAP requires that each appraisal, appraisal review, or appraisal consulting report state the intended use of the assignment results. How can one determine if the intended use statement in a report is adequate?

Response:

USPAP requires disclosure of the intended use to avoid misleading parties in possession of an appraisal, appraisal review, or appraisal consulting report. For additional clarity, one might also state that other uses are not intended. The use description provided in the statement must be specific to the assignment.

STATEMENT 9, *Identification of Intended Use and Intended Users*, provides an example of a statement that may be appropriate for inclusion in a report:

This report is intended only for use in (describe the use). This report is not intended for any other use.

Personal Property Appraisal Requirements

Question:

I'm a personal property appraiser and I've been asked to donate my professional services to help raise funds for a charitable organization. The charity wants to hold an event where anyone can bring in their personal property items and, for a nominal fee (paid to the charity), receive my opinion as to the value of their item(s). This appears to be similar to television shows where people bring in their personal items to be valued. If I decide to participate, would my opinions be considered appraisals and if so, how could I comply with USPAP in performing these assignments?

Response:

USPAP defines "appraisal" as:

the act or process of developing an opinion of value; an opinion of value.

Therefore, the opinions you describe would be appraisals.

To comply with USPAP, a personal property appraiser would have to comply with the requirements of STANDARD 7 and STANDARD 8, in addition to the applicable rules (e.g. ETHICS RULE, COMPETENCY RULE). This means the appraiser would have to

perform the level of research and analyses required to produce credible assignment results (given the intended use). Since the appraiser would be communicating the appraisal as an oral report, the report must address (to the extent that it is both possible and appropriate) the substantive matters of a Summary Appraisal Report. In addition, the appraiser would have to prepare a workfile as required by the Record Keeping section of the ETHICS RULE.

These television shows may make it appear that the appraiser is providing his or her appraisal “off the cuff” and not in compliance with USPAP. However, it is more likely the appraiser has been provided with the personal property item to be appraised prior to the actual taping of the show. The appraiser may also be providing the property owner with a written appraisal report; although it may not be discussed during the television show. Therefore, it is possible the appraiser is rendering a USPAP-compliant appraisal and report, even if it does not appear that way during the airing of the show.

Each year the ASB compiles the monthly USPAP Q&A into a publication entitled Frequently Asked Questions, or FAQ's. In addition to compiling the new FAQ's for the year, all of the FAQ's in the publication are reviewed and updated, if necessary, to ensure they represent the most recent guidance from the Board. Frequently Asked Questions is published as an adjunct to each edition of USPAP, and has become a valuable reference for appraisers, users of appraisal services, and regulators. The Frequently Asked Questions publication can be purchased for \$20.00 by visiting the “Foundation Store” page on The Appraisal Foundation website (<https://commerce.appraisalfoundation.org>).

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