

105 - Code of Government Ethics

R.S. 1950, Title 42, Chapter 15 – Enacted in the 1982

Each employee is required to take at least one hour of ethics training each year.

Library employees are subject to the Code of Governmental Ethics (R.S. 1950, Title 42, Chapter 15), which was enacted in the 1982 legislative session. The basic tenets of the code are:

1. That public employees must be independent and impartial,
2. That decisions and policy are made in the proper channel of the government structure,
3. That public employment may not be used for private gain,
4. That there be public confidence in the integrity of government.

Below is an outline of the key points. The Library is not responsible for any misinterpretation caused by this abbreviated version of the code's main points. Each employee is responsible for understanding the complete code; if any situation arises which may involve ethical considerations, the employee must consult the code.

1. You may NOT receive or accept payments (or anything of economic value):
 - a. For the performance of your regular public duties [other than regular salary or wages].
 - b. From someone to whom you have directed governmental or public business (i.e. "finder's fees").
 - c. For any non-public activity that is, in effect, the same thing you do while on regular public duty, or substantially related to your agency's operations.
 - d. For future services that you might render after you leave public employment [but you may accept a contract for prospective employment].
 - e. For rendering assistance to certain persons who conduct transactions with the government or public entity.
2. If it involves the governmental (public) entity, you may NOT participate in a transaction:
 - a. In which you have a personal substantial economic interest.
 - b. Which involves your family or certain other persons or entities with whom you have a business relationship.

In such cases, the employee is required to disqualify himself from participation in the transaction.

3. Contracts, sub-contracts, or transactions which are under your supervision or jurisdiction may NOT be bid upon or entered into by:
 - a. You.
 - b. Your immediate family.
 - c. Or any legal entity in which you or members of your immediate family have interests totaling more than 25%.
4. You may NOT solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, anything of economic value as a gift or gratuity from:
 - a. Any person who has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with your public agency.
 - b. Any person who conducts operations or activities which are regulated by your public agency.
 - c. Any person who has interests which the performance or nonperformance of your official duty may substantially affect.
5. You may NOT use the authority of your office or position, directly or indirectly, to compel or coerce anyone to provide anyone with anything of economic value.
6. You may NOT give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver (or offer to do so) directly or indirectly, to anyone anything of economic value which the other person would be prohibited from receiving.
7. If you are a supervisor, you may NOT employ any member of your immediate family in any activity under your supervision, whether that supervision is direct authority or indirect supervision through the general hierarchy.