



## *State of New Jersey*

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

PO Box 082

Trenton, NJ 08625-0082

[www.nj.gov/ethics](http://www.nj.gov/ethics)

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

PAULA A. FRANZESE, Esq.  
*Chair*

KATHLEEN C. WIECHNIK, Esq.  
*Executive Director*

*Tel: (609) 292-1892*

*(888) 223-1355 in NJ*

*Fax: (609) 633-9252*

*Email: [ethics@ethics.state.nj.us](mailto:ethics@ethics.state.nj.us)*

## **UNIFORM ETHICS CODE**

### **FOREWORD**

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-23*, the State Ethics Commission has adopted this Uniform Ethics Code to govern and guide the conduct of State officers and employees and special State officers and employees in State agencies in the Executive branch of State Government.

The Uniform Ethics Code shall be the primary code of ethics for State agencies. It shall be supplemented by an agency code of ethics formulated with respect to the particular needs and problems of the agency to which said code is to apply. Each agency, in consultation with the Attorney General's Office, must review its enabling legislation to ensure that any agency-specific conflicts provisions are included in any supplemental agency code. An agency code must be approved by the Commission.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. DEFINITIONS .....	3
II. GENERAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT .....	5
III. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.....	6
IV. ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS .....	7
V. POLITICAL ACTIVITY.....	8
VI. OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS INTERESTS .....	8
VII. OFFICIAL STATIONERY .....	9
VIII. POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS .....	10
IX. RECUSAL ON OFFICIAL MATTERS .....	12
X. CONTRACTS .....	13
XI. RETIREMENT GIFTS .....	14
XII. COMPENSATION FOR PUBLISHED WORKS .....	15
XIII. FAMILY MEMBERS – CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.....	15
XIV. CASINO-RELATED FAMILY MEMBER RESTRICTIONS.....	16
XV. REPORTING COMPLAINTS .....	17
XVI. PENALTIES.....	17

## I. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Uniform Ethics Code, and unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

“Commission” means the State Ethics Commission, established in but not of the Department of Law and Public Safety pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-21*.

“Conflicts Law” means the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law, *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq.*

“Ethics Liaison Officer” means the individual(s) designated by the agency head to assist the State Ethics Commission in implementing and enforcing the Conflicts Law and related ethics codes.

“Event” means a meeting, conference, seminar, speaking engagement, symposium, training course, ground-breaking, ribbon-cutting, meal, open house, cocktail party, fundraiser, holiday party, social function, or similar event that takes place away from the State official’s work location, is sponsored or co-sponsored by a supplier or a non-State government source and the invitation for which is extended to the State official because of his or her official position.

“Gift” means any fee, commission, service, compensation, gratuity, or other thing of value of any kind. If an item has more than a nominal monetary value, it will be characterized as a gift. A gift includes admission to an event for which a member of the general public would be charged, a meal, transportation, or offer of employment.

“Head of a State agency” means, in the case of the Executive branch of government, except with respect to interstate agencies, the department head or, if the agency is not assigned to a department, the Governor.

“Immediate Family Member” means an individual’s spouse, child, parent or sibling residing in the same household. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13(i)*.

“Interest” means (1) the ownership or control of more than 10% of the profits or assets of a firm, association, or partnership, or more than 10% of the stock in a corporation for profit other than a professional service corporation organized under the “Professional Service Corporation Act,” P.L. 1969, c. 232 (C. 14A:17-1 et seq.); or (2) the ownership or control of more than 1% of the profits of a firm, association, or partnership, or more than 1% of the stock in any corporation, which is the holder of, or an applicant for, a casino license or in any holding or intermediary company with respect thereto, as defined by the “Casino Control Act,” P.L. 1977, c. 110 (C. 5:12-1 et seq.). The provisions of this act governing the conduct of individuals are applicable to shareholders, associates or professional employees of a professional service corporation regardless of the extent or amount of their shareholder interest in such a corporation.

“Interested party” means: 1. Any person, or employee, representative or agent thereof, who is or may reasonably be anticipated to be subject to the regulatory, licensing or supervisory authority

of the State official's agency; 2. Any supplier, or employee, representative or agent thereof; 3. Any organization that advocates or represents the positions of its members to the State official's agency; or 4. Any organization a majority of whose members are as described in paragraphs 1 through 3 above.

“Person” means any natural person, association or corporation.

“Published work” means any tangible medium of expression, including, but not limited to, literary, pictorial, graphic and sculptural matter; sound recordings; and software. *N.J.A.C. 19:61-6.2.*

“Relative,” as used in section XIII, means an individual’s spouse, and the individual’s or his/her spouse’s parent, child, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister, whether the relative is related to the individual or the individual’s spouse by blood, marriage or adoption.

“Special State officer or employee” means (1) any person holding an office or employment in a State agency, excluding an interstate agency, for which office or employment no compensation is authorized or provided by law, or no compensation other than a sum in reimbursement of expenses, whether payable per diem or per annum, is authorized or provided by law; (2) any person, not a member of the Legislature, holding a part-time elective or appointive office or employment in a State agency, excluding an interstate agency, or (3) any person appointed as a New Jersey member to an interstate agency the duties of which membership are not full-time.

“State agency” means any of the principal departments in the Executive branch of the State Government, and any division, board, bureau, office, commission or other instrumentality within or created by such department, and, to the extent consistent with law, any interstate agency to which New Jersey is a party and any independent State authority, commission, instrumentality or agency. A county or municipality shall not be deemed an agency or instrumentality of the State.

"State officer or employee" means any person, other than a special State officer or employee (1) holding an office or employment in a State agency, excluding an interstate agency, other than a member of the Legislature or (2) appointed as a New Jersey member to an interstate agency.

“Supplier” means any person that is providing or is seeking to provide or may reasonably be expected to provide goods and/or services to the State officer or employee’s or special State officer or employee’s agency, including, but not limited to, consultants, vendors and lessors.

“Unclassified office or position” means any office or position in the unclassified service of the civil service of the Executive branch of State government.

## II. GENERAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

It is essential that the conduct of public officials and employees shall hold the respect and confidence of the people. Public officials must, therefore, avoid conduct that is in violation of their public trust or that creates a justifiable impression among the public that such trust is being violated. Accordingly, State officers and employees and special State officers and employees shall conform their conduct to the following standards.

1. No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest.
2. No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should engage in any particular business, profession, trade or occupation which is subject to licensing or regulation by a specific agency of State Government without promptly filing notice of such activity with the Commission.
3. No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should act in his/her official capacity in any matter wherein he/she has a direct or indirect personal financial interest that might reasonably be expected to impair his/her objectivity or independence of judgment.
4. No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should knowingly act in any way that might reasonably be expected to create an impression or suspicion among the public having knowledge of his/her acts that he/she may be engaged in conduct violative of his trust as a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee.

### Misuse of Official Position or Information

5. No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should use or attempt to use his/her official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantage for him/herself or others.
6. No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee, shall willfully disclose to any person, whether or not for pecuniary gain, any information not generally available to members of the public which he/she receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his/her official duties. No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee shall use for the purpose of pecuniary gain, whether directly or indirectly, any information not generally available to members of the public which he/she receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his/her official duties.

### Representation/Appearance Before a State Agency

7. No State officer or employee, nor any partnership, firm or corporation in which he/she has an interest, nor any partner, officer or employee of any such partnership, firm or corporation, shall represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of, or agree to represent, appear for, or negotiate on

behalf of, any person or party other than the State in connection with any cause, proceeding, application or other matter pending before any State agency. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to prohibit any such partnership, firm or corporation from appearing on its own behalf.

8. No special State officer or employee, nor any partnership, firm or corporation in which he/she has an interest, nor any partner, officer or employee of any such partnership, firm or corporation, shall represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of, or agree to represent, appear for or negotiate on behalf of, any person or party other than the State in connection with any cause, proceeding, application or other matter pending before the particular office, bureau, board, council, commission, authority, agency, fund or system in which such special State officer or employee holds office or employment.

Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to prohibit any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee from representing, appearing for or negotiating on behalf of, or agreeing to represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of, any person or party other than the State in connection with any proceeding:

- i. Pending before any court of record of this State,
- ii. In regard to a claim for compensation arising under chapter 15 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes (Workers' Compensation),
- iii. In connection with the determination or review of transfer inheritance or estate taxes,
- iv. In connection with the filing of corporate or other documents in the office of the Secretary of State,
- v. Before the Division on Civil Rights or any successor thereof,
- vi. Before the New Jersey State Board of Mediation or any successor thereof,
- vii. Before the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission or any successor thereof,
- viii. Before the Unsatisfied Claim and Judgment Fund Board or any successor thereof solely for the purpose of filing a notice of intention pursuant to P.L.1952, c.174, s.5 (C.39:6-65),or
- ix. Before any State agency on behalf of a county, municipality or school district, or any authority, agency or commission of any thereof except where the State is an adverse party in the proceeding and provided he is not holding any office or employment in the State agency in which any such proceeding is pending.

### **III. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS**

No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee shall accept any gift, favor, service or other thing of value related in any way to the State official's public duties.

Upon the recommendation of the Special Counsel for Ethics Review and Compliance, the Commission has adopted a zero tolerance policy for acceptance of gifts. (See *Report of the Special Ethics Counsel to the Governor of the State of New Jersey*, dated March 14, 2005.) Accordingly, any gift that is offered to or received by a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee or, his/her spouse, immediate family member, partner or associate shall be immediately reported to the agency's Ethics Liaison Officer ("ELO"). Unless the State officer or employee or special State officer or employee is permitted to receive the gift or thing of value in

accordance with the Commission's rules on attendance at events (see section IV), no State officer or employee or special State officer or employee or, his/her spouse, immediate family member, partner or associate shall accept, either directly or indirectly, any gift, favor, service or other thing of value related in any way to the State official's public duties.

The exceptions to the zero tolerance rules for acceptance of gifts are set forth below.

1. Unsolicited gifts or benefits of trivial or nominal value, such as complimentary articles offered to the public in general, and gifts received as a result of mass advertising mailings to the general business public may be retained by the recipient or the recipient's department for general use if such use does not create an impression of a conflict of interest or a violation of the public trust. The receipt of such complimentary articles is not required to be reported to the ELO.
2. A State officer or employee or special State officer or employee may receive a gift, favor, service or other thing of value from a vendor under the same terms and conditions as are offered or made available to members of the general public.
3. A State employee is permitted to give or receive a gift from a co-worker, a supervisor or a subordinate. The gift should not be excessive or inappropriate for a business environment. Such gift shall not be reported to the ELO.
4. In accordance with *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-24*, gift provisions do not apply to the acceptance of contributions to the campaign of an announced candidate for elective public office.

The procedures for reporting receipt of a gift are set forth in Appendix A.

#### **IV. ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS**

Attendance at an event that is sponsored or co-sponsored by an entity other than the State must be approved by the agency's ELO.

A State employee must complete the form identified as "Request For Approval For Attendance At Event," prior to attendance.

A State employee shall not attend an event in his or her official capacity unless a legitimate State purpose will be served.

Costs associated with attendance at an event shall be paid or reimbursed in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-24* and *N.J.A.C. 19:61-6.1 et seq.*

A State employee is prohibited from accepting honoraria in connection with his/her attendance or participation at an event. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-24*.

A State employee is prohibited from accepting entertainment, or reimbursement for entertainment, that is collateral to an event, such as a golf outing, tickets to a sporting event or a meal taken other than in a group setting with all attendees present.

The Commission's rules on attendance at an event and the form that must be completed prior to attendance at an event are set forth in Appendix B.

## **V. POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

Upon giving notice to the agency ELO, a State employee may be involved in political activities unless:

1. the State employee is prohibited from such activities by State or federal statute or agency rule; or
2. the political activity conflicts with the employee's official duties.

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-14* and *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-24*, a State employee may accept a contribution to the campaign of an announced candidate for elective public office provided the contribution is not known to be given in lieu of a payment that is prohibited by the Conflicts Law. Further, a State employee is subject to the Department of Personnel's Administrative Code provisions governing political activity, *N.J.A.C. 4A:10-1.2*. Note that a State employee is not permitted to serve as a campaign treasurer on any campaign that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Election Law Enforcement Commission.

The Commission's Guidelines on Political Activities and the provisions of *N.J.A.C. 4A:10-1.2* are set forth in Appendix C.

## **VI. OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS INTERESTS**

No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to impair his/her objectivity and independence of judgment in the exercise of his/her official duties.

A State officer or employee's participation in any service, activity or employment that is outside his/her official State duties may be prohibited by the Conflicts Law, other State or Federal law or regulation, or the code of ethics adopted by the employee's agency. Accordingly, a State officer or employee shall obtain the approval of the ELO prior to engaging in any of the following outside activities.

1. Commencement of any business, trade, profession or other compensated employment, including the acceptance of compensation for a speech or published work;
2. Uncompensated or volunteer work for or with any entity; or
3. Holding office or title in the governing or advisory board of any entity.

Notwithstanding the requirement to disclose outside employment and activities, a State agency may exempt disclosure of specific kinds of outside employment or activities if the agency is satisfied that such activity or employment does not present a conflict of interest.

A State officer or employee is not permitted to hold employment with, hold an interest in, or represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of a holder of or applicant for a casino license

unless the Commission grants a waiver. A waiver is granted in circumstances where it is determined by the Commission that such casino activity will not interfere with the responsibilities of the State officer or employee and will not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of such conflict. A special State officer or employee is prohibited from holding an interest in or representing, appearing for or negotiating on behalf of a holder of or applicant for a casino license, or any holding or intermediary company with respect thereto, in connection with any matter. However, a special State officer or employee without responsibility for matters affecting casino activity may hold employment with a casino license holder or applicant and, if so employed, may hold an interest in or represent, appear for or negotiate on behalf of his/her casino employer. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(b)*

All State officers and employees shall complete the Outside Activity Questionnaire attached to this document as Appendix D, in accordance with the procedures adopted by his/her agency. These procedures shall, at a minimum, require that each current employee complete the questionnaire and that each new employee complete the questionnaire upon commencement of employment with the agency. The procedures shall also require that a State officer or employee amend his/her Outside Activity Questionnaire whenever there is a change in the employee's outside activity or State employment. A State agency shall require disclosure of additional information regarding the outside activities of its employees as necessary to address the particular needs and problems of the agency.

The agency ELO shall review all outside activity questionnaires and determine whether the outside activity is permissible in accordance with the Conflicts Law, the Uniform Ethics Code, the agency code of ethics or any other authority. A State officer or employee may appeal an agency ELO's decision to disapprove an outside activity. Such appeal shall be submitted in writing to the Commission within 60 days of the employee's receipt of the agency's decision. The appeal shall cite the relevant section(s) of the Conflicts Law, Uniform Ethics Code, agency code of ethics or other authority which supports the position of the employee that such outside activity should be permitted.

Each State agency shall develop a Conflict of Interest questionnaire for special State officers and employees of that agency. Each State agency shall develop a process for the review and retention of both Outside Activity Questionnaires and Conflict of Interest Questionnaires.

The Commission's Guidelines Governing Outside Activities are set forth in Appendix E.

### **Blind Trusts**

A blind trust may be used by a State officer or employee, a special State officer or employee, his/her spouse or domestic partner or dependent children to avoid conflicts situations caused by financial interests. The trust must conform to the standards set forth in the Blind Trust Guidelines, Appendix F.

## **VII. OFFICIAL STATIONERY**

Official stationery shall be used only in connection with the State agency's official business. The limitations on use of official stationery also apply to personal stationery paid for

by an officer or employee if it is imprinted with the agency office or the title of the State officer or employee.

A State officer or employee or special State officer may not use official stationery to promote a candidate for elective office, endorse a State vendor or contractor, express a personal opinion on a matter that is not related to his/her official duties, or to promote his/her financial or other self-interest.

Exceptions: A State officer or employee or special State officer or employee may use official stationery to write a letter of recommendation for, or respond to an inquiry about, a current or former colleague or employee. These permissible uses are only acceptable so long as the use of official stationery does not create an impression that the State officer or employee is engaged in an unwarranted use of his/her position. For example, it would not be appropriate for a State employee to recommend an individual for inclusion in a program over which the State employee has supervisory or regulatory authority. In addition, there must be a reasonable connection between the officer's or employee's official duties and the use and purpose of the letter.

A State agency may not use official stationery to solicit a contribution from any interested party. Solicitation of any other entity must be reviewed and approved by the agency's ELO.

The Commission's Guidelines with respect to the use of official stationery are set forth in Appendix G.

## **VIII. POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS**

### **Seeking Future Employment**

State officers or employees who have direct and substantial contact with any interested parties must refrain from circulating resumes or in any manner seeking employment with those individuals or entities while still in State service. If an employee is solicited for potential employment by an entity with which he/she has direct and substantial contact, that solicitation must be disclosed immediately to the employee's management and to the agency's ELO. Employees who do not have direct and substantial contact with interested parties may circulate resumes and enter into discussions regarding potential employment with those individuals or entities so long as they avoid any situations that may give rise to an unwarranted advantage. All employees are cautioned that discussions, interviews, and negotiations shall not take place on State time.

### **Lifetime Ban**

At no time subsequent to the termination of his/her office or employment in any State agency may a former State officer or employee or special State officer or employee represent, appear for, negotiate on behalf of, or provide information or services not generally available to members of the public, or agree to perform any of those activities, for any party other than the

State in connection with a specific cause, proceeding, application or matter with which the State officer or employee or special State officer or employee had been substantially and directly involved at any time during the course of his/her office or employment. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17*. This lifetime ban applies not only to the State officer or employee or special State officer or employee personally, but also to the partnership, firm or corporation under the following circumstances: (1) if the former State officer or employee or special State officer or employee is a shareholder, associate or professional employee of a firm organized as a professional service corporation or (2) if the former State officer or employee or special State officer or employee owns or controls more than 10% of the stock of a corporation or more than 10% of the profits or assets of a firm, association or partnership.

### **One-Year Ban – Certain State Officials**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Special Counsel for Ethics Review and Compliance, a one-year ban on the activities described in this section shall apply to any head, deputy head or assistant head of any principal department, board, commission or authority, the Superintendent of State Police, the Governor's Chief of Staff, Chief of Management and Operations, Chief of Policy and Communications, Chief Counsel, Director of Communications, Policy Counselor, and any deputy or principal administrative assistant to any of the aforementioned members of the staff of the Office of the Governor.

For one year after the termination of the State office or employment of any of the individuals noted above, he/she shall not represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of, or agree to represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of any person or party other than the State with or before any officer or employee of the State agency in which he/she served. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any partnership, firm or corporation in which he/she has an interest or is employed, or to any partner, officer, director or employee of such partnership, firm or corporation. Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit a State agency from contracting with a former State officer or employee to act on behalf of the State.

In addition, the governor and each head of a principal department in the Executive branch are prohibited, for one year after the termination of office or employment, from registering as a "governmental affairs agent," as that term is defined in *N.J.S.A. 52:13C-20*. *N.J.S.A. 52:13C-21.4*.

### **Two-Year Casino Employment Restriction**

*N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2* sets forth post-employment restrictions applicable to State officers or employees subject to financial disclosure by law or executive order, and State officers or employees or special State officers or employees with responsibility for matters affecting casino activities.

Such persons are prohibited from holding, directly or indirectly, an interest in, or holding employment with, a casino licensee or applicant for a casino license for a period of two years following the termination of their State employment. In addition, such persons may not represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of a casino. This prohibition applies to any business entity in which the person holds an interest or is otherwise associated, including the officers or

employees of such business entity. This prohibition applies to the person's immediate family members unless granted a waiver by the Commission. See Section XIV, below. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(c)*.

### **Waivers**

In accordance with *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2*, the Commission may grant an exception from the above casino employment restrictions for a person's immediate family member or an employee who was terminated as a result of a reduction in force, (provided that the employee did not hold a policy-making management position during the five years prior to termination of employment) whenever it determines that such waiver will not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest:

The Commission's Guidelines with respect to Post-Employment Restrictions are set forth in Appendix H.

## **IX. RECUSAL ON OFFICIAL MATTERS**

A State officer or employee or special State officer or employee is required to recuse him/herself on an official matter that involves any private sector individual, association, corporation or other entity that employed or did business with the State officer or employee or special State officer or employee during the one year prior to the employee's commencement of State service.

A State officer or employee or special State officer or employee is required to recuse him/herself on an official matter if he/she had any involvement in that matter, other than on behalf of the State, prior to commencement of his/her State service.

A State official is required to recuse himself or herself from an official matter that involves any individual, association, corporation or other entity from which the State official received a campaign contribution, individually or in the aggregate, in an amount required to be reported by *N.J.A.C. 19:25-10*. Recusal is required regardless of whether the State official is elected to the office or position associated with the campaign contribution. The recusal shall remain in effect until the expiration of the term of office which the State official was seeking when the contribution was made.

A State officer or employee or special State officer or employee is required to recuse him/herself on an official matter if he/she has a financial or personal interest that is incompatible with the proper discharge of his/her public duties.

An incompatible personal or financial interest includes, but is not limited to, outside employment; a debtor/creditor relationship; a fiduciary relationship; a source of income; any matter pertaining to or involving a relative or cohabitant; a relationship with a person providing funds, goods or services without compensation; any matter pertaining to or involving a business associate or business investment; and a leadership role in a professional or trade organization, which interest might reasonably be expected to impair a State official's objectivity and independence of judgment in the exercise of his/her official duties or might reasonably be

expected to create an impression or suspicion among the public having knowledge of his or her acts that he/she may be engaged in conduct violative of his/her trust as a State official.

Upon determining that a State official shall recuse him/herself on any matter, the State official shall execute the recusal in writing, and shall have no involvement with the subject matter of the recusal. If a State official cannot determine whether he/she should execute a letter of recusal in any matter, the State official shall contact his/her agency ELO or the Commission for guidance. A State official shall seek the advice of the State agency's counsel, agency ELO or the Commission as to the propriety of participation in a matter if any person requests that a State official recuse him/herself from that matter. Oral advice, followed up by a writing, shall be provided by the agency's counsel, the agency ELO or the Commission to avoid delay. Oral advice shall subsequently be memorialized by a writing or by inclusion in public minutes.

The Commission's regulations governing recusal, *N.J.A.C* 19:61-7.1 et seq., which include the required elements for a written recusal, are set forth in Appendix I.

## **X. CONTRACTS**

With few exceptions, a State employee may not enter into a contractual agreement with the State.

An agency head, deputy head or assistant head is prohibited from engaging in any private business transactions with any employee in his/her agency.

### **Limitation on contracting by State officer or employee**

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 52:13D-19, no State officer or employee shall knowingly undertake or execute, in whole or in part, any contract, agreement, sale or purchase of the value of \$25.00 or more, made, entered into, awarded or granted by any State agency. The exceptions to this prohibition are set forth below. As used in this section, State officer or employee also includes his or her partners, any other person for the use or benefit of the State employee or on his or her account or any corporation which he/she controls or in which he/she owns or controls more than 1% of the stock.

### **Limitation on contracting by special State officer or employee**

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 52:13D-19, no special State officer or employee who has duties or responsibilities in connection with the purchase or acquisition of property or services by the State agency where he/she is employed or an officer shall knowingly undertake or execute, in whole or in part, any contract, agreement, sale or purchase of the value of \$25.00 or more, made, entered into, awarded or granted by that State agency. The exceptions to this prohibition are set forth below. As used in this paragraph, special State officer or employee also includes his/her partners, any other person for the use or benefit of the special State employee or on his/her account or any corporation which he/she controls or in which he/she owns or controls more than 1% of the stock.

The restrictions contained above shall apply to the contracts of interstate agencies to the extent consistent with law only if the contract, agreement, sale or purchase is undertaken or executed by a New Jersey member to that agency or by his/her partners or a corporation in which he/she owns or controls more than 1% of the stock.

### **Permissible Contracts with the State**

(1) With the prior approval of the Commission, a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee is permitted to enter into the following:

(a) purchases, contracts, agreements or sales which are made or let after public notice and competitive bidding or which, in accordance with public bidding laws or regulations applicable to other State agencies, may be made, negotiated or awarded without public advertising for bids, or

(b) any contract of insurance entered into by the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:27B-62*.

(2) A State officer or employee or a special State officer or employee or his partners or any corporation or firm in which he/she owns or controls more than 1% of the stock, assets or profits may enter into a contract or agreement with a State agency where the contract or agreement is for the development of scientific or technological discoveries or innovations in which the State agency has a property right, if the State agency has a procedure in its code of ethics for authorizing these contracts or agreements that minimizes actual conflicts of interest, and the code of ethics was approved in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-23*, and the contract or agreement complies with that code procedure.

(3) A State officer or employee or a special State officer or employee or his/her partners or any corporation or firm in which he/she owns or controls more than 1% of the stock, assets or profits may enter into a rental agreement with a State agency which operates a facility which rents space or provides services to assist small businesses which employ 50 people or less, pursuant to the same terms and conditions as those offered to members of the public generally.

**Please note that the Commission has never approved a request by a State officer or employee, or special State officer or employee, to enter into a contract with his/her own agency.**

The Commission's Guidelines on Privatization, set forth in Appendix J, are applicable to a State employee's participation in an open competitive bid process for the privatization of services currently being provided by his/her agency.

## **XI. RETIREMENT GIFTS**

A gift can be given to a State employee upon his/her retirement from State service. There are specific limits to the value of a permissible retirement gift. A State employee shall refer to Appendix K for the provisions governing retirement gifts.

## **XII. COMPENSATION FOR PUBLISHED WORKS**

A State officer or employee or special State officer or employee may not solicit, receive, or agree to receive, compensation from sources other than the State for published work(s) created as part of his/her official duties on State time and/or using State resources.

However, a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee, other than a “designated State officer,” (the Governor, cabinet-level officers and other principal administrative officers of the State) may, in connection with any service, advice, assistance, appearance, speech or other matter related to his/her official duties, receive or agree to receive, whether directly or indirectly, from sources other than the State, reasonable fees for published works on matters within his/her official duties not created on State time and/or using State resources.

In addition, a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee may accept compensation from sources other than the State for published work(s) on matters unrelated to his/her official duties created on his/her own time and with non-State resources.

Before agreeing to accept or accepting any compensation from a source other than the State for any published work, a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee must secure his/her State agency’s approval to do so.

In determining whether to grant such approval, the State agency shall consider, among other things, whether the compensation is offered by an interested party, and whether the published work uses or discloses information not generally available to the public. The determination shall be consistent with applicable law and agency policy.

No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee may use his/her official title in soliciting compensation for a published work.

The Commission’s Guidelines with respect to Published Works are set forth in Appendix L.

## **XIII. FAMILY MEMBERS - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

1. No relative of the Governor may be employed in any unclassified office or position within the State.

2. No relative of a commissioner or department head may be employed in any unclassified office or position within the department over which the department head exercises authority.

3. A relative of an assistant or deputy department head may be employed in an unclassified office or position within the department in which the assistant or deputy serves, provided that he/she is not assigned to a position over which the assistant or deputy department head exercises authority.

4. A relative of a head or assistant head of a division within a department may be employed in an unclassified office or position within the department in which the division head or assistant division head serves, provided that he/she is not assigned to a position over which the assistant or deputy department head exercises authority.

5. A relative of an appointed member of a governing or advisory body of an independent authority, board, commission, agency or instrumentality of the State may not be employed in any office or position in that entity.

6. A relative of an appointed New Jersey member of a governing body of a bi-state or multi-state agency may not be employed in an office or position in that bi-state or multi-state agency, unless otherwise permitted by law.

7. No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee may supervise his/her relative, or exercise any authority with regard to personnel actions involving his/her relative

8. Each State agency shall require State officers and employees and special State officers and employees to disclose information sufficient for the agency to determine whether the employment of any individual within the agency is prohibited.

### **Cohabitation**

The Commission has determined that the prohibition regarding personnel actions and the supervision of family members, set forth in paragraph 7 above, is applicable to non-related individuals who share the same household with the same financial interdependence that the Commission views as creating a conflict in spousal situations.

### **Dating Relationship**

In the case of individuals involved in dating relationships, the Commission has found violations of the Conflicts Law in situations where the State employee had official involvement in a matter affecting the individual with whom he/she had a dating relationship. Accordingly, a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee shall not have any involvement in his/her official capacity in any matter that pertains to or involves an individual with whom he/she has a dating relationship.

The Commission's guidelines with respect to "Official Interactions with Family Members/Cohabitants and Dating Relationships" is attached hereto as Exhibit M.

## **XIV. CASINO-RELATED FAMILY MEMBER RESTRICTIONS**

### **Concurrent Employment Restriction**

An immediate family member of a State officer or employee, or of any “person,” as defined at *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(a)*, may not hold directly or indirectly, an interest in, hold employment with, or represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of a holder of, or applicant for, a casino license, or any holding or intermediate company with respect thereto.

However, an immediate family member of a State officer or employee or “person” may be employed by a casino in circumstances where it is determined by the Commission that such employment will not interfere with the responsibilities of the State officer or employee or “person” and will not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of such conflict. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(b)*.

### **Post-Employment Restriction**

An immediate family member of a “person,” as defined at *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(a)*, may not hold, directly or indirectly, an interest in, hold employment with, or represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of, any holder of, or applicant for, a casino license in connection with any phase of casino development permitting, licensure, or any other matter related to casino activity, for a period of two years following the termination of the office or employment of such person.

However, an immediate family member of a “person” may be employed by a casino in circumstances where it is determined by the Commission that such employment will not interfere with the responsibilities of the “person” and will not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of such conflict. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(c)(1)*.

Casino post-employment restrictions that apply to State officials defined as “persons” are noted in section VIII.

## **XV. REPORTING COMPLAINTS**

Allegations that a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee has violated a provision of this Uniform Code, the Conflicts Law, the Commission’s rules, an agency code of ethics or any other standard within the jurisdiction of the Commission should be reported to the appropriate agency ELO or the Commission staff. Allegations should contain as much detailed information as possible and, if the complainant chooses to identify him/herself, should include contact information so that the ELO or Commission staff can obtain additional information if necessary. A complainant is not required to disclose his/her identity when reporting an alleged ethics violation.

## **XVI. PENALTIES**

The Commission is empowered to impose the following penalties in accordance with specific provisions of the Conflicts Law. Note that violations committed by a former State officer or employee or special State officer or employee may be subject to penalties so long as the Commission’s investigation of same was initiated not later than two years following termination of service.

1. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17* provides that any person who willfully violates the general post-employment restrictions set forth in that provision is a disorderly person, and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both. In addition, for violations occurring after March 15, 2006, any former State officer or employee or former special State officer or employee found by the Commission to have violated any of the provisions of this section shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than \$500 or more than \$10,000.
2. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(h)* provides that any person who willfully violates the casino-related post-employment restrictions set forth in Section 17.2 (c) is a disorderly person, and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both. In addition, for violations of Section 17.2(c) occurring after March 15, 2006, any former State officer or employee or former special State officer or employee found to have violated any of the provisions of this section shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than \$500 or more than \$10,000.
3. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-21(i)* provides that any current or former State officer or employee or special State officer or employee found guilty by the Commission of violating any provision of the Conflicts Law, the Uniform Ethics Code, or any agency code of ethics, shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$10,000, and may be suspended from office or employment by order of the Commission for a period not to exceed one year. In addition, for violations occurring after March 15, 2006, the State Ethics Commission may also order restitution, demotion, censure or reprimand.

This subsection further provides that if the Commission finds that the conduct of the officer or employee constitutes a willful and continuous disregard of the provisions of the Conflicts Law, the Uniform Ethics Code or any agency code of ethics, it may order that person removed from office or employment and may further bar the person from holding any public office or employment in this State in any capacity whatsoever for a period not exceeding five years from the date on which the person was found guilty by the Commission.

This subsection further provides that the Commission may impose a penalty of \$50 per day of violation for failure to file an appropriate financial disclosure statement required to be submitted to the Commission by law, regulation or executive order.

(See penalty provisions set forth at *N.J.A.C. 19:61-3.1(j)* and *N.J.A.C. 19:61-5.6(c)*.)

4. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-23(d)* provides that violations of the Uniform Ethics Code or any agency code of ethics shall be cause for removal, suspension, demotion or other disciplinary action by the State officer or agency having the power of removal or discipline. With respect to a person who is in the classified civil service, the procedure leading to such removal or discipline shall be governed by the Civil Service Act, *N.J.S.A. 11A:1-1 et seq.* and the Rules of the Department of Personnel. No action for removal or discipline shall be taken under this subsection except upon the referral or with the approval of the Commission.
5. *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-26* provides that any person who willfully induces or attempts to induce a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee to violate any of the provisions of

the Conflicts Law is a disorderly person, and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500 or imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or both.



**UMDNJ-Office of Ethics and Compliance**

**STATE ETHICS COMMISSION**

**Uniform Ethics Code, Plain Language Ethics Guide and Impact Statement Receipt**

I certify that on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, I received a copy of  
(Date) (Year)  
the Uniform Ethics Code, the Plain Language Ethics Guide and the Scholarly Capacity  
Rule Impact Statement. I acknowledge that I am responsible for reading these  
documents and understand that I am bound by them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Employee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Employee

\_\_\_\_\_  
University ID (A#)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title and Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Please complete and return this form to The Office of Compliance and Corporate Integrity:***

***One Worlds Fair Drive  
Suite 3100  
Somerset, NJ 08873***