

WHAT IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

A **Conflict of Interest** is when a person, such as a government official, employee, or a professional, has a private interest in an issue that he or she can influence. This may present a situation where his/her private interest may conflict with a public duty.

Public Duty

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Prohibited Actions or Conduct

- ◆ Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts
- ◆ Unauthorized Compensation
- ◆ Misuse of Public Position
- ◆ Disclosure/Use of Information
- ◆ Solicitation/Acceptance of Honoraria

Prohibited Employment and Business Relationships

- ◆ Doing Business with One's Agency
- ◆ Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationship
- ◆ Exemptions & Additional Exemption
- ◆ Lobbying State Agencies by Legislators
- ◆ Employees Holding Office
- ◆ Professional & Occupational Licensing Board Members
- ◆ Contractual Services: Prohibited Employment
- ◆ Local Government Attorneys

Restrictions on Appointing, Employing, and Contracting with Relatives

Post Officeholding and Employment (Revolving Door) Restrictions

- ◆ Lobbying by Former Legislators, Statewide Elected Officers, and Appointed Statewide Officers
- ◆ Lobbying by Former State Employees
- ◆ Other Restrictions on Former State Employees
- ◆ Lobbying by Former Local Government Officers and Employees

Voting Conflicts of Interest

Disclosures



Note: A Conflict of Interest that arises from a person's membership in the CAG does NOT prevent them from attending scenic highway public meetings as a concerned or interested citizen.

Private Interest

GUIDELINES FOR AVOIDING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Educate: When forming a CAG, have an attorney or an expert in ethics law educate prospective members about potential conflicts of interest. Have them explain what it is and allow the CAG to ask questions about the issue. Any questionable cases must be submitted to the Florida Commission on Ethics for a final ruling.

Communicate: If circumstances emerge that have the potential to become a Conflict of Interest, contact an attorney to develop and discuss methods of avoiding the conflict. Any questionable cases must be submitted to the Florida Commission on Ethics for a final ruling.

The State of Florida Commission on Ethics produces two pamphlets regarding conflicts of interest which provide in greater detail the necessary issues and concerns. The State of Florida Commission on Ethics web site is www.ethics.state.fl.us

Please also refer to Section 112.313 Florida Statutes.