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# **Updates to the Cook County Ethics Ordinance**

Prepared by:

**Cook County  
Board of Ethics**

# Updates

01

## DEFINITION OF RELATIVE CLARIFIED

*Relative* means an Official's, Employee's, or Board or Commission appointee's spouse, domestic partner, civil-union partner, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, grandparent, sibling, step-sibling, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, half-brother, or half-sister, and all of the preceding forms of relation to the official's, employee's, or board or commission appointee's spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner (if any). **Sec. 2-562.**

02

## APPLICABILITY & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Among other specified groups, Cook County Ethics Ordinance applies to "Persons doing business, seeking to do business, or who have done business with Cook County" and "Candidates for County office." New employees and board or commission appointees must formally agree to adhere to the Cook County Ethics Ordinance. **Sec. 2-563.**

03

## DUAL EMPLOYMENT - OFFICIALS

No elected or appointed official shall engage in compensated lobbying of the governing body of a county, municipality, township, the General Assembly, a State executive branch office or agency, or an official thereof, on behalf of any lobbyist or lobbying entity that is registered with the State to lobby Cook County. Officials that hold employment outside their elected office must disclose such employment or change in employment to the Board of Ethics within 30 days. **Sec. 2-573.**

04

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST SUPERVISOR DISCLOSURE

The immediate supervisor of any employee who has a conflict of interest (a decision in which they have any economic interest) must disclose the conflict brought to their attention and the action taken to resolve it to the Board of Ethics within 30 days. **Sec. 2-578.**

05

## POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION LIMITS UPDATED

Anyone who does, has done, or is seeking to do a significant amount of business with the County (\$10,000 or more) during the preceding four years, is subject to campaign contribution limits of \$1,500.00 in a calendar year to any current County official and any candidate for County office. This includes contributions to any associated local, state or federal political committees that are established in support of a specific candidate for County office. **Sec. 2-585.**

# Updates (Cont.)

06

## **PRINTED PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS PERIODS**

County funds may never be used to purchase any printed promotional material (including mail, newsletter, brochures) during the periods of 60 days prior to a general primary election day and ending the day after such general primary election, and 60 days prior to a general election and ending the day after such general election. **Sec. 2-585.**

07

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

No official, employee or board or commission appointee shall engage in or encourage behavior constituting sexual harassment or knowingly permit or condone behavior constituting sexual harassment by or against another Person. **Sec. 2-563.** Sexual Harassment means any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors or other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature regardless of gender.

08

## **IMPROPER INFLUENCE UPDATED**

No employee, official, or board or commission appointee shall use or in any way attempt to use their official position to influence any County governmental decision or action,...in which there is an associated economic interest in such action or decision, or from which the employee, official, or board or commission appointee derived income or obtained other rights or privileges. **Sec. 2-573.**

09

## **POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS REFINED**

"Board or commission appointee" was added to all post-employment restrictions. No official, employee, or board or commission appointee may, for a period of 364 calendar days following the termination of their term of office or employment, serve as a consultant, contracted employee, or lobbyist of any County agency, board, commission, official, etc. **Sec. 2-580.**

10

## **EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES UPDATED**

Employees, officials, or board of commission appointees cannot: (1) hire a relative, on behalf of the county, (2) supervise or participate in the evaluation of any relative, (3) trade employment favors with other County personnel, (4) participate in a decision for the County to contract with someone with whom a relative has a financial interest, (5) exercise contract management authority when a relative is employed by or has contracts with the counterparty. **Sec. 2-585.**