



OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION
William Green Building
30 West Spring Street, L3
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2256
Telephone: (614) 466-7090
Fax: (614) 466-8368

www.ethics.ohio.gov

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION AUTHORITY

The Ohio Ethics Law promotes the general public interest and supports confidence by prohibiting public officials and employees from:

- Participating in their public role in any action that involves the direct interests of the official, or those of a family member, or another with whom the official has an ongoing private business relationship;
- Authorizing, or using a public position to secure, a public contract or the investment of public funds in any security that benefits the official, a family member, or a business associate;
- Improperly profiting from a public contract;
- Soliciting or accepting substantial and improper things of value, including, outside employment or consultation fees, gifts, or travel, meals and lodging, from those dealing with the public agency;
- Unauthorized disclosure or use of information deemed confidential by law;
- Representing others before any public agency in a matter in which the official or employee was involved, both during, and for a period of time (at least one year) after, leaving public service.

The Ohio Ethics Commission does investigate public officials or employees who:

- Use their public positions to benefit:
 - themselves
 - their family members or
 - their business associates
- Award, discuss, or recommend public contracts in which any of the following has a financial interest:
 - The public official or employee
 - their family members or
 - their business associates
- Hire family members into public positions (commonly referred to as “nepotism”)
- Engage in prohibited revolving-door/post-employment behaviors
- Solicit or accept substantial and improper things of value, including: outside employment, gifts, travel, meals, lodging, and entertainment
- Engage in the unauthorized disclosure or use of confidential information
- File false or incomplete Financial Disclosure Statements
- Receive improper supplemental compensation
- Misuse public equipment for private business

The Ohio Ethics Commission also may investigate anyone who:

- Provides substantial and improper things of value to public officials or employees, including outside employment, gifts, travel, meals, lodging, and entertainment
- Gives improper supplemental compensation to public officials or employees

When in doubt, contact the Ohio Ethics Commission at (614) 466-7090.

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION DOES NOT INVESTIGATE:	ALTERNATIVE AGENCIES TO CONTACT FOR ASSISTANCE:
Sunshine Law violations (Open Meetings/Public Records)	Attorney General of Ohio (614) 466-4320 www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov or Auditor of Ohio (800) 282-0370 www.auditor.state.oh.us
Lobbying or lobbyists or Members or staff of the General Assembly	Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (614) 728-5100 www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us
Judges or judicial employees	Board of Professional Conduct (614)387-9370 www.bpc.ohio.gov
Federal officials or employees	U.S. Office of Government Ethics (202) 482-9300 www.oge.gov
Compatibility of dual public offices	Attorney General of Ohio
Campaign finance or Elections	Ohio Elections Commission (614) 466-3205 www.elc.ohio.gov
Civil service/labor disputes/contract violations	U.S. Department of Labor (866) 487-2365 www.dol.gov or your agency/job/company
Codes of Professional Conduct (such as private attorneys, engineers, doctors, accountants, funeral home directors, peace officers, etc.)	Appropriate professional licensing board www.ohio.gov/agencies
Private industry/ consumer complaints	Better Business Bureau (703) 276-0100 www.bbb.org or Attorney General of Ohio (Consumer Affairs)
Sexual harassment or Discrimination (age, gender, religion, equal protection, etc.)	Ohio Civil Rights Commission (888) 278-7101 www.crc.ohio.gov
Poor or substandard government customer service	State agencies: Inspector General's Office (614) 644-9110 www.watchdog.ohio.gov Local agencies: local prosecutor
Selective enforcement allegations against police, prosecutors, or other government officials/agents	Private cause of action.
Theft in office or bribery	State agencies: Inspector General's Office Local government: local prosecutor