



This holiday season, please keep in mind the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics and the law concerning food and drink—and gifts. It is important to remember who is considered a prohibited source to you and your coworkers.

According to Louisiana Revised Statutes

Generally, a public employee may not:

- 1) Receive anything other than his normal salary and benefits because of his position as a public employee (La. R.S. 42:1111A(1))
- 2) Accept or solicit anything, directly or indirectly, from a company or individual that has a business or contractual relationship with his agency, including vendors and contractors (La. R.S. 42:1115A(1))
- 3) Accept or solicit anything, directly or indirectly, from a person who is seeking, for compensation, to influence the passage or defeat of legislation by the public servant's agency (La. R.S. 42:1115A(2))
- 4) Accept or solicit anything, directly or indirectly, from a company or an individual that is regulated by his agency (La. R.S. 42:1115B(1))
- 5) Accept or solicit anything, directly or indirectly, from a company or individual that has an economic interest in the performance of the employee's public job duties (La. R.S. 42:1115B(2)).



Food and Drink Regulations

The Code of Ethics does not prohibit a public employee from accepting complimentary food and drink when the public employee is the personal guest of the giver. Therefore, a representative of a company or an individual providing food and drink must be physically present when the food or drink is consumed. Additionally, the public employee may not be given more than \$60 in food and/or drink at a single meal or event. This does not include tax or gratuity.

Gifts

Other than food and drink, any other type of gift or donation is generally prohibited. A limited exception to this general rule is for promotional items that have no substantial resale value. In order to qualify, these items must be permanently imprinted with a company or organization's name or logo and must be of very minimal to little resale value (such as t-shirts, pens, hats, or cups). Items such as money, gift cards, tickets, and other gifts are strictly prohibited. School employees of a prekindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school are allowed to receive a gift with a value of \$25 or less from students or on behalf of students.