



A Holiday Reminder to Public Servants from the La. Board of Ethics

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:
 - (a) that has a business or contractual relationship with his agency, including vendors and contractors La. R.S. 42:1115A (1)
 - (b) seeking, for compensation, to influence the passage or defeat of legislation by the public servant's agency
 - (c) that is regulated by his agency La. R.S. 42:1115B (1)
 - (d) 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 you from accepting complimentary food and drink when you are the personal guest of the giver. Therefore, a representative of the company or the individual providing the food and drink must be physically present when you consume the food or drink. Additionally, you may not accept more than \$62 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 a student or on behalf of a student.