



HOLIDAY REMINDERS!!!

As we embark upon the holiday season, please keep in mind the laws concerning gifts, food and drink, and other donations contained within the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics (La. R.S. 42:1102 et. seq.)

Generally, a public employee may not:

- Receive anything other than his normal salary and benefits because of his position as a public employee (La. R.S. 42:1111A(1))
- Accept or solicit anything, directly or indirectly, from a company or individual that has a business or contractual relationship with his agency, which includes vendors and contractors (La. R.S. 42:1115A(1))
- 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))
- Accept or solicit anything, directly or indirectly, from a company or individual that has an economic interest that the public employee can affect by performing his 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, but only when the public employee is the personal guest of the giver. Therefore, if a company or an individual is providing the food and drink, a representative of that company or the individual providing the food or drink must be physically present when the food is consumed. Additionally, the public employee may not be given more than \$53 in food and/or drink at a single meal or event.



Other Gifts and Donations

Other than food and drink, any other type of gifts and donations are generally prohibited. A limited exception to this general rule is for **promotional items which 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 minor value, such as t-shirts, pens, hats or cups imprinted with the logo. Items such as money, gift cards, tickets, and other gifts are strictly prohibited.

For further information, visit the Louisiana Board of Ethics' website at www.ethics.state.la.us