

South Carolina  
Ethics Act

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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Who Does the Act Cover?

**Public officials**  
-Any elected or appointed official of the state (excluding judges) and any candidate for such office.

**Public members**  
- An individual appointed to a noncompensated part-time position on a board, commission or council.

**Public employees**  
-Any person employed by the state.

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YOUR STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS

Who has to file?  
The city Administrator/city manager/chief municipal administrative official, the chief financial officer and chief procurement officer.

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### WHEN TO FILE YOUR SEI

- FILE BY MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>.
- NEW HIRES: FILE WITHIN TEN DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT.

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### Information Required On Your SEI

- The source, type, and amount or value of income, not to include tax refunds, of substantial monetary value received from a governmental entity by the filer or the filer's immediate family during the reporting period.
- Description, value and location of real property owned/options to purchase real property during the reporting period by filer or immediate family if:
  - Public improvements were made in excess of \$200.00
  - OR
  - The interest can reasonably be expected to be the subject of a conflict of interest.
- If a sale, lease, or rental of personal property is to a state, county or municipal instrumentality of government, a copy of the contract, lease or rental agreement must be attached to the SEI.

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### Information Required On Your SEI

The name of each organization which paid for or reimbursed actual expenses of the filer for speaking before a public or private group, the amount of such payment or reimbursement, and the purpose, date and location of the speaking engagement.

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## 700 violations

- Deals with self-dealing and nepotism.
- Section 8-13-700(A)
  - "No public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated."
  - Exception for incidental use not resulting in additional public expense.
- Section 8-13-700(B)
  - "No public official, public member, or public employee may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use his office, membership, or employment to influence a governmental decision in which he, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated has an economic interest."

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### FAMILY MEMBERS

Your spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, mother-in-law, son-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparent or grandchild.

Dictionary defines brother-in-law as:  
a - the husband of one's sibling  
b - the husband of one's spouse's sibling

### ECONOMIC INTEREST

An interest distinct from that of the general public in a purchase, sale, lease, contract, option, or other transaction or arrangement involving property or services in which a public official, public member, or public employee may gain an economic benefit of fifty dollars or more

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### EXAMPLES OF 700 VIOLATIONS

- Hiring family members.
- Promoting family members.
- Providing special accommodations, goods or services to a family member or a company with which the family member is employed/associated.
- Using office equipment or time to work on a second business.

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## Under No Circumstances May You...

- RECEIVE ANYTHING OF VALUE WITH THE INTENT OF INFLUENCING YOU IN YOUR OFFICIAL CAPACITY.
- ACCEPT ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR ASSISTANCE GIVEN WHILE PERFORMING YOUR OFFICIAL DUTIES.
- USE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION GAINED THROUGH EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUR PERSONAL GAIN.
- REPRESENT ANOTHER PERSON BEFORE YOUR GOVERNMENT BODY.
- MAY NOT ACCEPT AN ADHONORARIUM FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.

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## Please!

ASK US FOR GUIDANCE BEFORE YOU ACT!  
[HTTP://ETHICS.SC.GOV/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX](http://ethics.sc.gov/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX)

South Carolina State Ethics Commission  
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150  
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Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding State Holidays

For questions about Statement of Economic Interests, please contact [lessie@ethics.sc.gov](mailto:lessie@ethics.sc.gov).

For questions about Campaign Disclosures, please contact [sandra@ethics.sc.gov](mailto:sandra@ethics.sc.gov).

For questions about the complaint process or the law, please contact [ami@ethics.sc.gov](mailto:ami@ethics.sc.gov).

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