

Nepotism and Conflicting Relationships

1031.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure equal opportunity and effective employment practices to include recruiting, testing, hiring, compensation, assignment, use of facilities, access to training opportunities, supervision, performance appraisal, discipline and workplace safety and security, while maintaining positive morale by avoiding actual or perceived favoritism, discrimination, or other actual or potential conflicts of interest by or between members of this department.

Violations of this policy may constitute official misconduct by a public officer or employee if he/she, while in his/her official capacity (720 ILCS 5/33-3):

- (a) Intentionally or recklessly fails to perform any mandatory duty as required by law.
- (b) Knowingly performs an act which he/she knows he/she is forbidden by law to perform.
- (c) With intent to obtain a personal advantage for himself/herself or another, he/she performs an act in excess of his/her lawful authority.
- (d) Solicits or knowingly accepts for the performance of any act a fee or reward which he/she knows is not authorized by law.

1031.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Business relationship - Serving as an employee, independent contractor, compensated consultant, owner, board member, shareholder, or investor in an outside business, company, partnership, corporation, venture, or other transaction where the Department employee's annual interest, compensation, investment, or obligation is greater than \$250.

Conflict of interest - Any actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest in which it reasonably appears that a department employee's action, inaction, or decisions are or may be influenced by the employee's personal or business relationship.

Nepotism - The practice of showing favoritism to relatives over others in appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement by any public official in a position to influence these personnel decisions.

Personal relationship - Includes marriage, cohabitation, dating, or any other intimate relationship beyond mere friendship.

Public official - A supervisor, officer or employee in who is vested with the authority by law, rule or regulation or to whom authority has been delegated.

Relative - An employee's parent, stepparent, spouse, domestic partner, significant other, child (natural, adopted or step), sibling, grandchild, or grandparent.

Subordinate - An employee who is subject to the temporary or ongoing direct or indirect authority of a supervisor.

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Supervisor - An employee who has temporary or ongoing direct or indirect authority over the actions, decisions, evaluation, and/or performance of a subordinate employee.

1031.2 RESTRICTED DUTIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

The Department will not prohibit all personal or business relationships between employees. However, in order to avoid nepotism or other inappropriate conflicts the following reasonable restrictions shall apply:

- (a) Employees are prohibited from directly supervising, occupying a position in the line of supervision, or being directly supervised by any other employee who is a relative or with whom they are involved in a personal or business relationship.
 - 1. If circumstances require that such a supervisor/subordinate relationship exist temporarily, the supervisor shall make every reasonable effort to reassign matters pertaining to the involved employee to an uninvolved supervisor.
 - 2. When personnel and circumstances permit, the Department will attempt to make every reasonable effort to avoid placing employees in such supervisor/subordinate situations. The Department however, reserves the right to transfer or reassign any employee to another position within the same classification to avoid conflicts with any provision of this policy.
- (b) Employees are prohibited from participating in, contributing to, or recommending promotions, assignments, performance evaluations, transfers or other personnel decisions affecting an employee who is a relative, or with whom they are involved in a personal or business relationship.
- (c) Whenever possible, FTOs and other trainers will not be assigned to train relatives. FTOs and other trainers are prohibited from entering into or maintaining personal or business relationships with any employee they are assigned to train until such time as the training has been successfully completed and the employee has satisfactorily completed his/her probationary period.
- (d) To avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest, members of this department shall refrain from developing or maintaining personal or financial relationships with victims, witnesses or other individuals during the course of or as a direct result of any official contact.
- (e) Except as required in the performance of official duties or, in the case of immediate relatives, employees shall not develop or maintain personal or financial relationships with any individual they know or reasonably should know is under criminal investigation, is a convicted felon, parolee, fugitive or registered sex offender, or who engages in serious violations of state or federal laws.

1031.2.1 EMPLOYEE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Prior to entering into any personal or business relationship or other circumstance which the employee knows or reasonably should know could create an actual or perceived conflict of interest

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or other violation of this policy, the employee shall promptly notify his/her uninjured, next highest level of supervisor.

Whenever any employee is placed in circumstances that would require the employee to take enforcement action or provide official information or services to any relative or individual with whom the employee is involved in a personal or business relationship, the employee shall promptly notify his/her uninjured, immediate supervisor. In the event that no uninjured supervisor is immediately available, the employee shall promptly notify dispatch to have another uninjured employee either relieve the involved employee or minimally remain present to witness the action.

1031.2.2 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Upon being notified of or otherwise becoming aware of any circumstance that could result in or constitute an actual or potential violation of this policy, a supervisor shall take all reasonable steps to promptly mitigate or avoid such violations whenever possible. Supervisors shall also promptly notify the Chief of Police of such actual or potential violations through the chain of command.