



THE VOICE OF ETHICS

APRIL 2014

A Focus on Financial Disclosure

Form No. OEC-2013
OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT This statement is to be
Financial information for calend

Please type or print clearly. See [instructions](#) for assistance with this page.

SECTION A. PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Last Name First Name

Address City State Zip

County E-mail Address Phone ()

The Ohio Ethics Commission is reminding Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) filers that [FDS forms](#) are due on May 15, 2014!

In February, the Commission extended the financial disclosure filing deadline for those disclosure filers whose forms would ordinarily be due on April 15, 2014. The deadline was extended to

allow filers adequate time to prepare needed documents, especially those who may be using the Commission's electronic filing system for the first time.

Why Financial Disclosure?

The Ohio Ethics Commission administers a Financial Disclosure program for approximately 11,000 filers from more than 1,300 public entities in Ohio.

Financial Disclosure provides benefits to those who file and the general public. Specifically, disclosure reminds public officials and employees of any personal, family, or business financial interests that

might impair their judgment on behalf of the public. This awareness assists public officials in complying with the Ethics Law by alerting them when recusal may be required.

Because the majority of the statements are public record, FDS informs the public of potential conflicts of interests that public officials and employees may have.

Belief Ethics Morals Conscience Decency Goodness
Honesty Honor Integrity Morality Principles Standard
Value Truth Law Dignity Right Noble Good

Electronic Filing System a Success!



In 2013, the Ethics Commission unveiled its FDS electronic filing system. Though filers may still choose to complete a “hard copy” form, approximately 60 percent of filers are now filing their forms electronically. Feedback regarding the electronic filing system has been overwhelmingly positive. Filers have commented on the

ease of the system, the instant notification when the form is received by the Commission, and the convenience of uploading a previously filed form and editing it as opposed to filling out a new statement each year.

For those filing electronically for the first time, the Ohio Ethics Commission has created three tutorials to assist

filers through the process:

- How to Create an Online FDS Account
- How to File Your Online Financial Disclosure Statement
- How to Save a Document as a PDF

[Click here](#) to file your statement electronically or download a paper version.

Financial Disclosure Facts

Those required by statute to annually file a Financial Disclosure Statement include:

- Elected officials at the state, county, and city levels;
- Candidates for state, county, and city elective offices;
- School board members and candidates for school board in school districts with more than 12,000 students;
- Superintendents, treasurers, and business managers for all school districts;
- Upper-level state employees, including university presidents, directors, assistant directors, deputy directors, division chiefs and “persons of equivalent rank” serving state administrative departments, and state employees paid a salary or wage in accordance with schedule C or E-2; and
- Members and chief executive officers of sovereign power state boards and commissions.

Most filers must disclose:

- All sources of income of any amount;
- Amount of income received from any person if the filer knows or has reason to know the person is doing or seeking to do business with filer's public agency;
- All sources of gifts over \$75 (excluding most family members);
- Names of clients as sources of income and individual items of income if the clients are legislative agents (except where confidentiality is protected by a code of ethics);
- All investments, debtors, and creditors over \$1000;

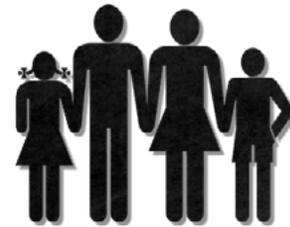


- Most ownership and leasehold interests in real property;
- Source and amount of every payment of travel expenses for travel inside

- or outside of the state incurred in connection with filer's official duties; and
- Source of payment of meals, food, and beverage expenses paid in connection with filer's official duties that exceed \$100 aggregated per calendar year.

For additional information regarding Financial Disclosure, see this [fact sheet](#).

New E-Courses Available!



The Ohio Ethics Commission currently provides two (2) one-hour courses that provide an overview of the entire Ethics Law. However, in recognition that many questions arise regarding specific provisions of the law, the Ethics Commission has created several short e-courses specific to individual topics.

These short e-courses serve as a springboard to begin discussion and to enhance understanding of the Ethics Law in your agency. Due to their brevity and specificity, they would be especially appropriate for staff meetings. Of course, each course can also be individually viewed on-demand.

The newly introduced [e-courses](#) cover several

important topics:

- Gifts
- Nepotism
- The Private Sector and the Ohio Ethics Law

(State employees: Please note that these courses do not fulfill your annual ethics training requirement per Executive Order 2011-03K and do not provide proof of attendance. To attend an e-course that will fulfill that requirement, please [click here](#)).

Stay tuned for two new e-courses to be introduced in the near future:

- Selling Goods/Services to Public Agency
- Post-Employment

Questions? Contact Susan Willeke or Jon Brown at (614) 466 – 7090!