

OSE NEWS

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Ethics Liaisons – Is Your New Employee Required to File a Statement of Financial Interest?

New employees who are designated filers must file a Statement of Financial Interests Statement for the previous calendar year.

During the recruitment process, the human resources manager or Ethics Liaison shall inform individuals, where applicable, that they will be required to file an SFI. This is critical in the case of board and commission appointees who often receive little compensation for their work. Except where otherwise specified by statute, board and commission members are to be designated by the executive agency or quasi-public agency only if the board or commission expends, or approves expenditure of, public funds and exercises substantial authority of the state.

Within ten days after the filer joins the agency, the Ethics Liaison should add the new employee, board member, etc. to the designation list and enter him or her into the filing system. The filer will then receive a temporary password and instructions from the OSE regarding filing.

New employees, who assume their designated positions after March 31 must file SFIs for the preceding year within 30 days of assuming such positions. New employees, board members, etc. who assume their designated positions between January 1 and March 31 must file SFIs for the *preceding* year by May 1 of that year.

Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board Advisory Opinion

On May 20, 2021, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and decided on the opinion summarized below. Click on the Advisory Opinion number to read the full text of the opinion.

Advisory Opinion No. 2021-2

Application of the Code of Ethics Concerning Use of Office Provisions

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that the "use of office" provision in General Statutes § 1-84 (c) does not extend to distant familial relations such as a second cousin and thus does not prohibit a state employee from providing a reference letter recommending his second cousin for a state position.

Our Number One Rule: Always Get Advice!

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