

Inside DEEP

Ethics

Employees of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection are charged with preserving and protecting the air, water and other natural resources of the state, and for advancing energy policy and technology to achieve cleaner, cheaper and more reliable energy for Connecticut's residents and businesses. As regulators of businesses throughout the state, the judgments of employees of the Department must be beyond reproach. For this reason, Department employees are held to the high ethical standards prescribed by the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees. See [Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 1-79 through 1-89](#).

Department employees are engaged with private sector individuals and corporate entities in regulation, monitoring, inspection and enforcement, often in the course of the permitting or licensing process. While engaging in work-related activities, Department employees may not use their position or office for any personal financial gain. For this reason, the Code of Ethics prohibits, with limited exceptions:

- The acceptance of gifts from lobbyists, anyone seeking or doing business with or seeking or receiving grants from the Department, or anyone involved in a permit or regulatory proceeding with the Department;
- Solicitation or acceptance of anything of value with the understanding that professional judgments will be altered;
- Acceptance of outside employment that will create a conflict of interest with Department duties or impair the independent judgment required to perform those duties; and
- Using information gained while in the public trust for the financial benefit of the employee, their relatives, or any business associated with the employee or their relatives.

The Department protects the character and legacy of lands and resources belonging to the citizens of the State of Connecticut. To ensure that the Department is an effective steward of the resources it protects, there must be no actual conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety in its work or interaction with citizens, businesses, or any other regulated groups. The Department is committed to ensuring the impartiality of the permit process, maintaining the fairness of regulations, and avoiding conflicts of interest that would undermine the effective stewardship of Connecticut's natural resources.

It is important to remember that certain provisions of the Code of Ethics also apply to public officials and state employees after they leave state service. Each state agency can have an ethics policy that is more restrictive than the Code of Ethics. For your convenience, the DEP has provided the links to the most current ethics directives and guidance below. Please be aware that the ethics laws were enacted and DEP's directives and guidance were adopted to prevent individuals from using their public position or authority for personal, financial benefit.

If there is any doubt, please feel free to seek guidance from your supervisor, the Office of Legal Counsel or the Office of State Ethics regarding your ethics concerns.

Related Information

[Direction 1470 D2 Acceptance of Gifts or Gratuities](#)

[Directive 5551 D4 Code of Ethics](#)

[Directive 5554 D3 Outside Employment of DEP Employees](#)

[Directive 5554 D4 Fees and Honoraria](#)

[Guidance for Training/Conferences Funded by Third Parties](#)