

PURPOSE

These policies are based on the requirements of New York State Public Officers Law Section 74 and shall serve as a guide for official conduct and are intended to enhance the ethical and professional performance of the Authority's directors and employees and to preserve public confidence in the Authority's mission.

SCOPE

This Code of Ethics shall apply to all directors, officers and employees of the Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority ("Authority").

POLICY

I. Responsibility of Directors and Employees

1. Directors and employees shall perform their duties with transparency, without favor and refrain from engaging in outside matters of financial or personal interest, including other employment, that could impair independence of judgment, or prevent the proper exercise of one's official duties.
2. Directors and employees shall not accept employment or engage in any business or professional activity which will require him or her to disclose confidential information which he or she has gained by reason of his or her official position with the Authority.
3. Directors and employees shall not directly or indirectly, make, advise, or assist any person to make any financial investment based upon information available through the director's or employee's official position that could create any conflict between their public duties and interests and their private interests.
4. Directors and employees shall not make personnel investments in enterprises which he or she has reason to believe may be directly involved in decisions to be made by him or her with regard to the Authority or which will otherwise create substantial conflict between his or her duty in the public interest and his or her private interest.
5. Directors and employees shall not accept or receive any gift or gratuities where the circumstances would permit the inference that: (a) the gift is intended to influence the individual in the performance of official business or (b) the gift constitutes a tip, reward, or sign of appreciation for any official act by the individual. This prohibition extends to any form of financial payments, services, loans, travel reimbursement, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise from any entity doing business with or before the Authority.
6. Directors and employees shall not use or attempt to use their official position with the Authority to secure unwarranted privileges for themselves, members of their family or others, including employment with the Authority or contracts for materials or services with the Authority.
7. Directors and employees shall not disclose confidential information acquired by him or her in the course of his or her official duties nor use such information to further his or her personal interests.
8. Directors and employees must conduct themselves at all times in a manner that avoids any appearance that they can be improperly or unduly influenced, or unduly enjoy his or her favor in the performance of his or her official duties, or that he or she is affected by the kinship, rank, position or influence of any party or person, or that they are acting in violation of their public trust.
9. Directors and employees shall endeavor to pursue a course of conduct which will not raise suspicion among the public that he or she is likely to be engaged in acts that are in violation of his or her trust.

10. Directors and employees may not engage in any official transaction with an outside entity in which they have a direct or indirect interest, financial or otherwise, that may substantially conflict with the proper discharge of their official duties.
11. Directors and employees shall manage all matters within the scope of the Authority's mission independent of any other affiliations or employment. Directors, including ex-officio board members, and employees employed by more than one government shall strive to fulfill their professional responsibility to the Authority without bias and shall support the Authority's mission to the fullest.
12. Directors and employees shall not use Authority property, including equipment, telephones, vehicles, computers, or other resources, or disclose information acquired in the course of their official duties in a manner inconsistent with State or local law or policy and the Authority's mission and goals.

II. Implementation of Code of Ethics

This Code of Ethics shall be provided to all directors and employees upon commencement of employment or appointment and shall be reviewed annually by the Authority Board. The Board may designate an Ethics Officer, or the Authority Attorney shall act as the Ethics Officer until one may be designated by the Board, who shall report to the Board and shall have the following duties:

- Counsel in confidence Authority directors and employees who seek advice about ethical behavior.
- Receive and investigate complaints about possible ethics violations.
- Dismiss complaints found to be without substance.
- Prepare an investigative report of their findings for action by the Executive Director or the board.
- Record the receipt of gifts or gratuities of any kind received by a director or employee, who shall notify the Ethics Officer within 48 hours of receipt of such gifts and gratuities.

III. Violations and Penalties

In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of law, an Authority director or employee who knowingly and intentionally violates any of the provisions of this code may be fined, suspended or removed in the manner provided for in law, rules or regulations.

IV. Reporting Unethical Behavior

Employees and directors are required to report possible unethical behavior by a director or employee of the Authority to the Ethics Officer. Employees and directors may file ethics complaints anonymously and are protected from retaliation by the policies adopted by the Authority.