



BLOUNT COUNTY GOVERNMENT CODE OF ETHICS

Section 1. Definitions.

- (1) "County" means Blount County, which includes all boards, committees, commissions, authorities, corporations or other instrumentalities appointed or created by the county or an official of the county, and specifically including the county school board, the county election commission, and the county health department.
- (2) "Officials and employees" means and includes any official, whether elected or appointed, officer, employee or servant, or any member of any board, agency, commission, authority or corporation (whether compensated or not), or any officer, employee or servant thereof, of the county.
- (3) "Personal interest" means, for the purpose of disclosure of personal interests in accordance with this Code of Ethics, a financial interest of the official or employee, or a financial interest of the official's or employee's spouse or child living in the same household, in the matter to be voted upon, regulated, supervised, or otherwise acted upon in an official capacity.

Section 2. Disclosure of personal interest in voting matters.

An official or employee with the responsibility to vote on a measure shall disclose during the meeting at which the vote takes place, before the vote and to be included in the minutes, any personal interest that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the official's or employee's vote on the measure. In addition, the official or employee may, to the extent allowed by law, recuse himself or herself from voting on the measure.

Section 3. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters.

An official or employee who must exercise discretion relative to any matter other than casting a vote and who has a personal interest in the matter that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the exercise of the discretion shall disclose, before the exercise of the discretion when possible, the interest on the attached disclosure form and file the disclosure form with the county clerk. In addition, the official or employee may, to the extent allowed by law, recuse himself or herself from the exercise of discretion in the matter.

Section 4. Acceptance of gifts and other things of value.

An official or employee, or an official's or employee's spouse or child living in the same household, may not accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, money, gratuity, or other consideration or favor of any kind from anyone other than the county:

- 1) For the performance of an act, or refraining from performance of an act, that he would be expected to perform, or refrain from performing, in the regular course of his duties; or
- 2) That a reasonable person would understand was intended to influence the vote, official action, or judgment of the official or employee in executing county business.

It shall not be considered a violation of this policy for an official or employee to receive entertainment, food, refreshments, meals, health screenings, amenities, foodstuffs, or beverages that are provided in connection with a conference sponsored by an established or recognized statewide association of county government officials or by an umbrella or affiliate organization of such statewide association of county government officials. It shall not be considered a violation of this policy for an official or employee to receive an occasional meal or other items of nominal value.

Section 5. Ethics Complaints.

A County Ethics Committee (the "Ethics Committee") consisting of five members shall be appointed to one-year terms by the County Mayor with confirmation by the county legislative body, to be appointed each year at the same time as internal committees of the county legislative body. At least three members of the committee shall be members of the county legislative body; one member shall be a constitutional county officer or, should no constitutional county officer be willing to accept appointment, an additional member of the county legislative body; and the remaining member may be either a member of a board, committee, commission, authority, corporation, or other instrumentality governed by this policy, or an additional member of the county legislative body. The Ethics Committee shall convene as soon as practicable after their appointment and elect a chair and a secretary. The records of the Ethics Committee shall be maintained by the secretary and shall be filed in the office of the county clerk, where they shall be open to public inspection.

Questions and complaints regarding violations of this Code of Ethics should be directed to the Human Resources Department. Complaints shall be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint, and shall set forth in reasonable detail the facts upon which the complaint is based.

The Ethics Committee shall investigate any credible complaint against an official or employee charging any violation of this Code of Ethics, or may undertake an investigation on its own initiative when it acquires information indicating a possible violation, and make recommendations for action to end or seek retribution for any activity that, in the Committee's judgment, constitutes a violation of this Code of Ethics. If a member of the Committee is the subject of a complaint, such member shall recuse himself or herself from all proceedings involving such complaint.

The complaint may be:

- (1) referred to the County Attorney for a legal opinion and/or recommendations for action;
- (2) in the case of an official, refer the matter to the county legislative body for possible public censure if the county legislative body finds such action warranted;
- (3) in the case of an employee, refer the matter to the official responsible for supervision of the employee for possible disciplinary action if the official finds discipline warranted;
- (4) in a case involving possible violation of state statutes, refer the matter to the district attorney for possible ouster or criminal prosecution;

The interpretation that a reasonable person in the circumstances would apply shall be used in interpreting and enforcing this Code of Ethics. When a violation of this Code of Ethics also constitutes a violation of a personnel policy or a civil service policy, the violation shall be dealt with as a violation of the personnel or civil service provisions rather than as a violation of this Code of Ethics.

Section 6. Applicable State Laws.

In addition to the ethical principles set out in this Code of Ethics, state laws also provide a framework for the ethical behavior of county officials and employees in the performance of their duties. Officials and employees should familiarize themselves with the state laws applicable to their office or position and the performance of their duties.



CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Instructions: This form is for reporting personal interests required to be disclosed under Section 3 of the Code of Ethics of Blount County Government. Officials and employees are required to disclose personal interests in matters that affect or would lead a reasonable person to infer that it would affect the exercise of discretion of an official or employee.

1. Date of disclosure: _____
2. Name of official or employee: _____
3. Office and position: _____
4. Description of personal interest. A financial interest of the official or employee, or a financial interest of the official's or employee's spouse or child living in the same household, in the matter to be voted upon, regulated, supervised, or otherwise acted upon in an official capacity. (Describe below in detail)

Signature of official or employee

Witness Signature

Printed name of witness



RESOLUTION NO. 07-04-014

**TO ADOPT A CODE OF ETHICS FOR OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES
OF BLOUNT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, Section 49 of the Comprehensive Governmental Ethics Reform Act of 2006, 2006 Public Chapter 1 (1st Ex. Sess.), (the "Ethics Reform Act") requires county legislative bodies to adopt certain ethical standards by resolution on or before June 30, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) is directed to prepare and disseminate a model of ethical standards which may be adopted by counties in compliance with the Ethics Reform Act; and

WHEREAS, County desires to adopt the CTAS model of ethical standards as the Code of Ethics for Blount County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Blount County legislative body meeting in regular session at Maryville, Tennessee, on this 19th day of 2007 that:

SECTION 1. The model of ethical standards developed by CTAS and attached to this resolution is hereby adopted as the Code of Ethics for Blount County.

SECTION 2. Upon approval of this resolution, the County Clerk is directed to:

- (a) Mail a copy of this resolution to the State Ethics Commission; and
- (b) Mail a copy of this resolution and the attached Code of Ethics to each County office governed thereby, including all boards, committees, commissions, authorities, corporations or other instrumentalities appointed or created by the county or an official of the county, and specifically including the county school board, the county election commission, and the county health department; and
- (c) Post a copy of the Code of Ethics on each public bulletin board in the County Courthouse.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval, the public welfare requiring it.

ADOPTED this 19th day of April, 2007

APPROVED: signatures on file

ATTEST:

County Mayor

County Clerk