PENNSYLVANIA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

THE ETHICS ACT

A Short Guide On How To Stay Out of the Newspapers (and jail)



DO YOU TRUST YOUR

GOVERNMENT?

CORE MISSION

The Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission's core mission and guiding principle is that public office is a public trust and that any effort to realize personal financial gain through one's public office is a violation of that trust.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

JURISDICTION

• PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Any person elected by the public or elected or appointed by a governmental body or an appointed official in the executive, legislative or judicial branch of this Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

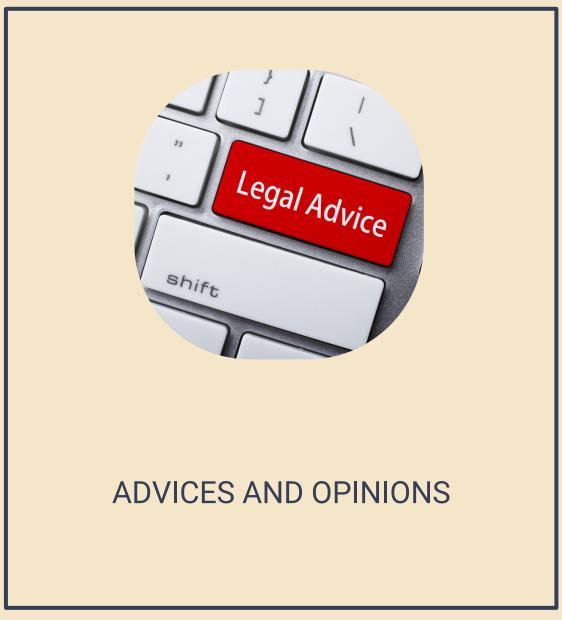
Any individual employed by the Commonwealth or a political subdivision who is responsible for taking or recommending official action of a nonministerial nature with regard to:

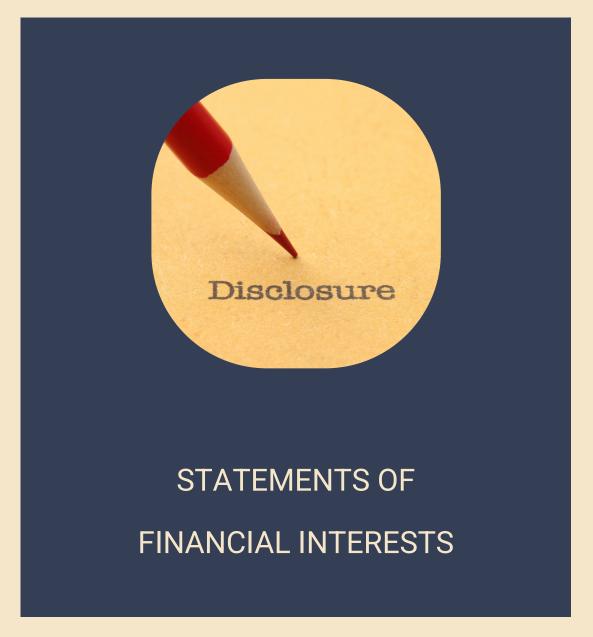
- contracting or procurement;
- administering or monitoring grants or subsidies;
- planning or zoning
- inspecting, licensing, regulating or auditing any person; or
- any other activity where the official action has an
 economic impact of greater than a de minimis nature on

the interests of any person

THREE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

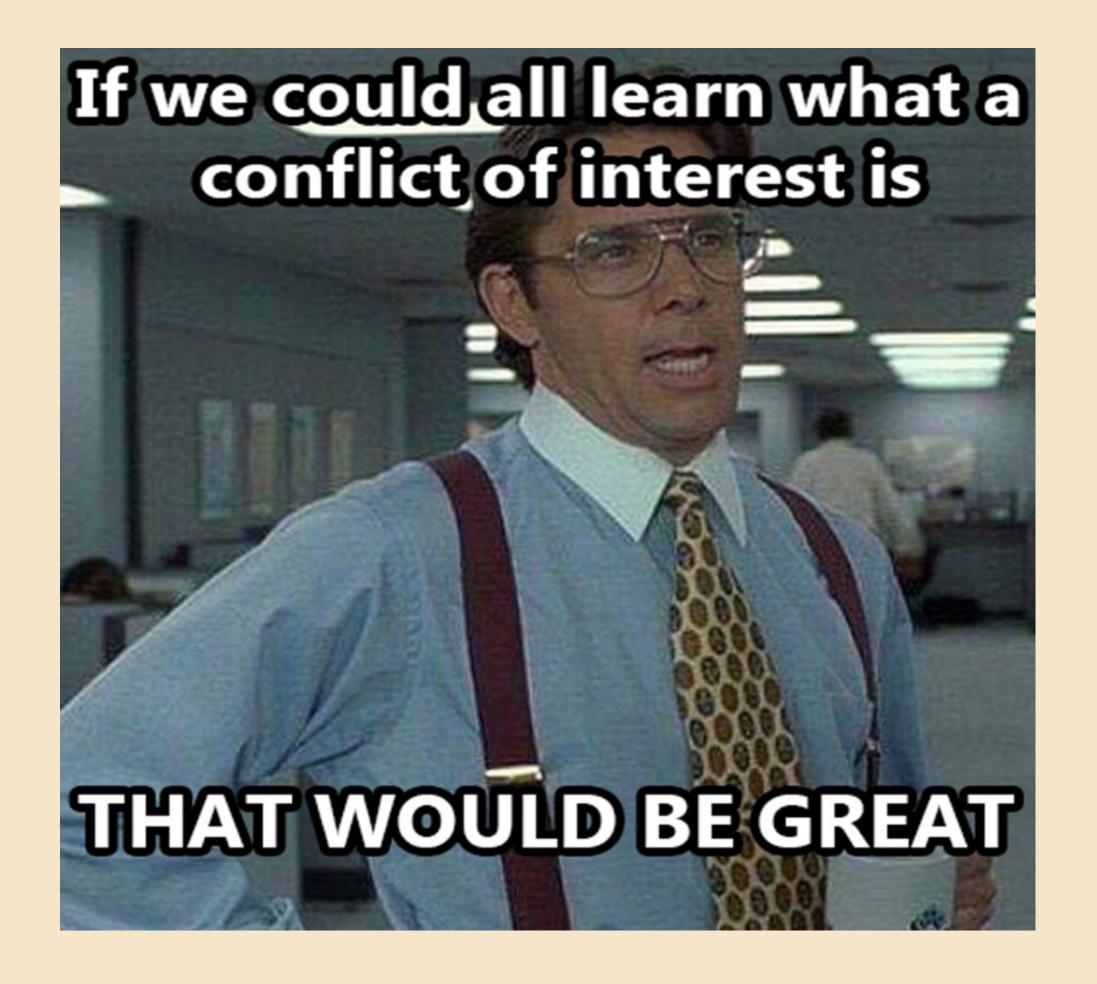






Restricted Activities





Conflict of Interest: 1103(a)

No public official or public employee shall engage in conduct that

constitutes a conflict of interest.

Use of
Authority of
Office or
Confidential

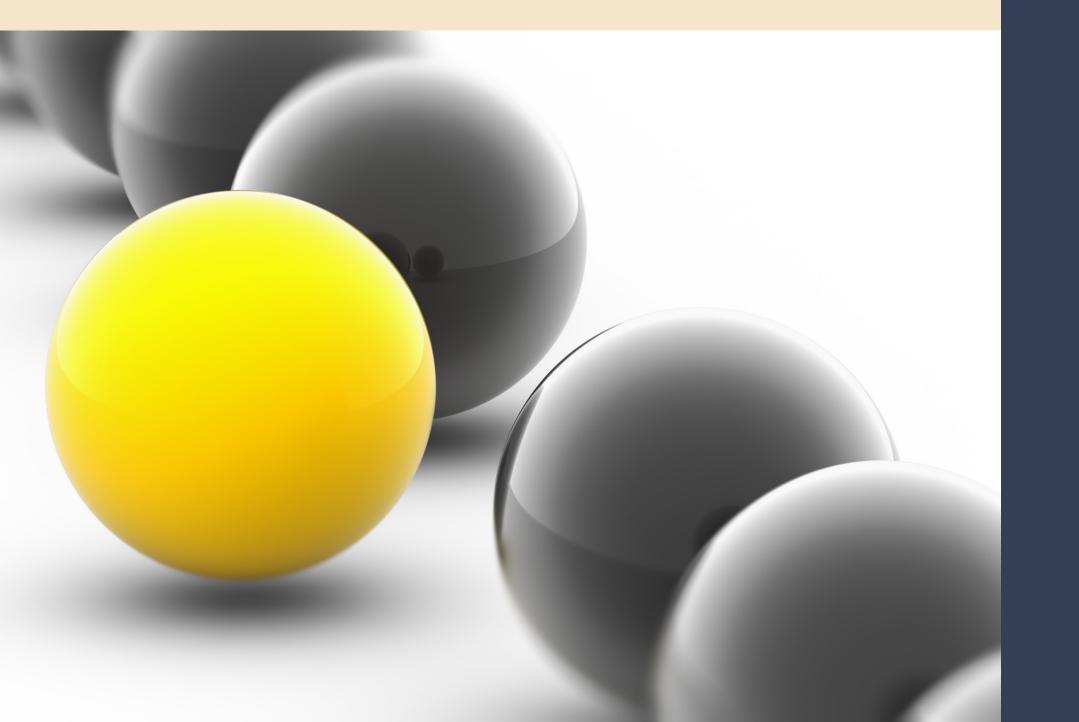
Information

For the private pecuniary benefit of

Themselves,
a member of
their
immediate
family, or a
business



Exceptions

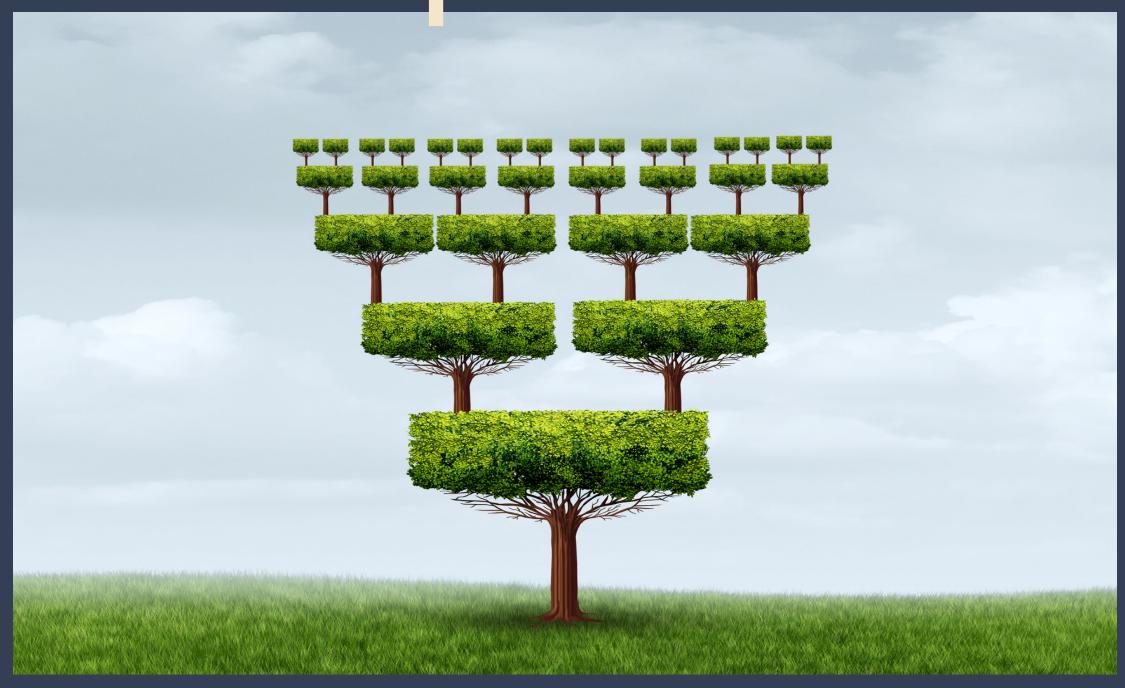


Actions having a de minimis economic impact

Affects to the same degree a class consisting of the general public

Subclass consisting of an industry, occupation, or other group

Nepotism



USE OF GOVERNMENT ASSETS



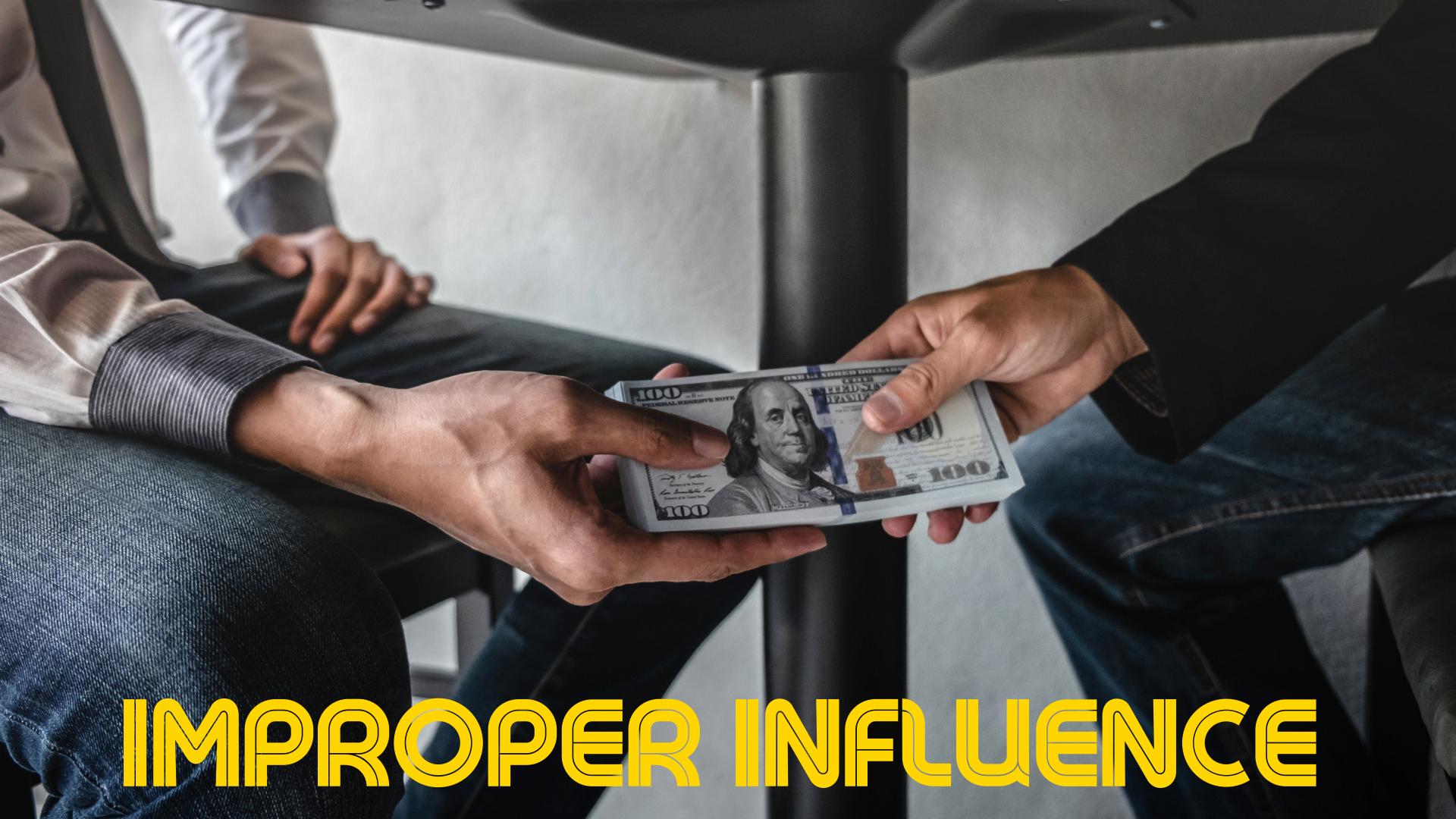


GIFTS, TRAVEL, LODGING, HOSPITALITY

If you have a conflict:



AND publicly announce and disclose nature of your interest in a written memo with the person recording the meeting minutes.



Revolving Door: 1103(g)

No <u>former</u> public official or public employee shall

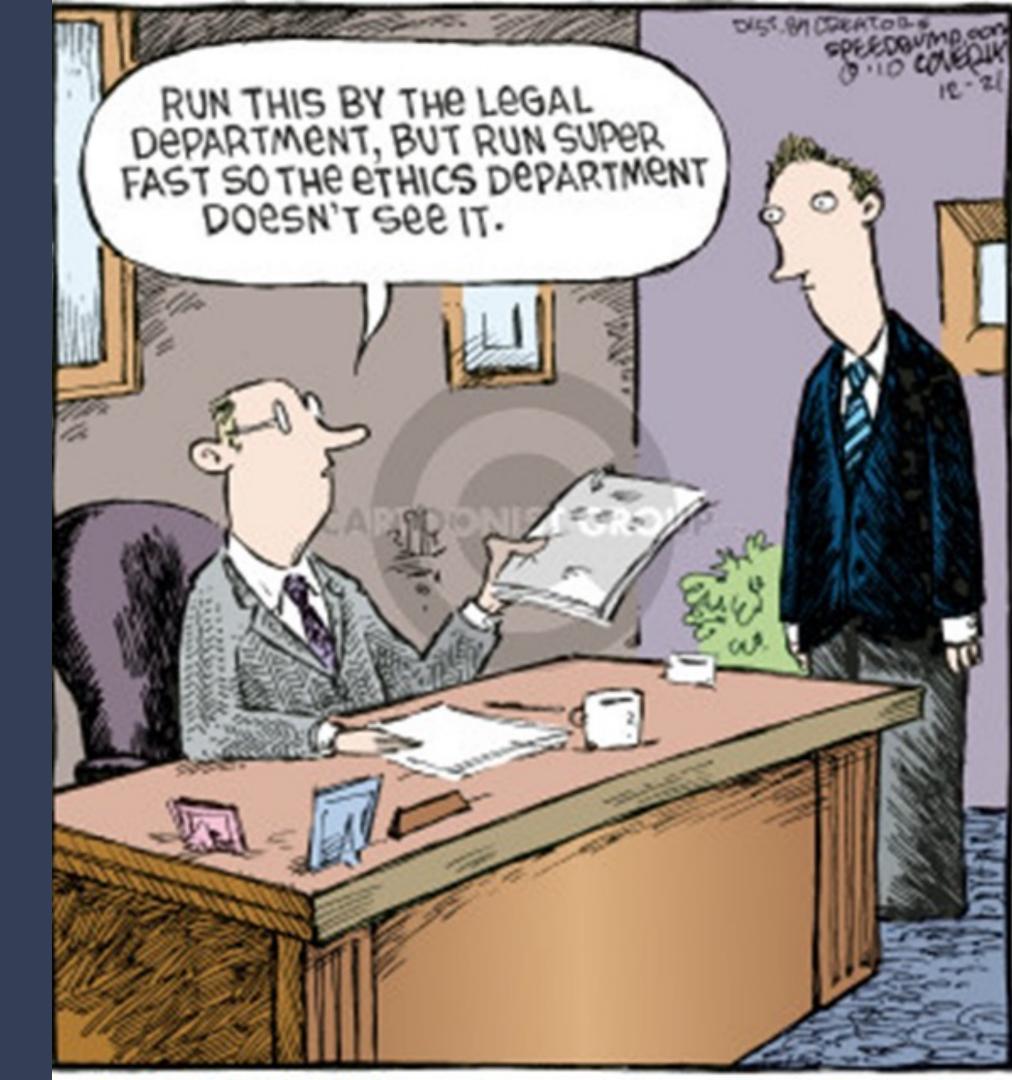
Represent a "person"

For promised or actual compensation

Before their former governmental body

For one year after leaving.

Advices and Opinions



WHATIS AN ADVICE?

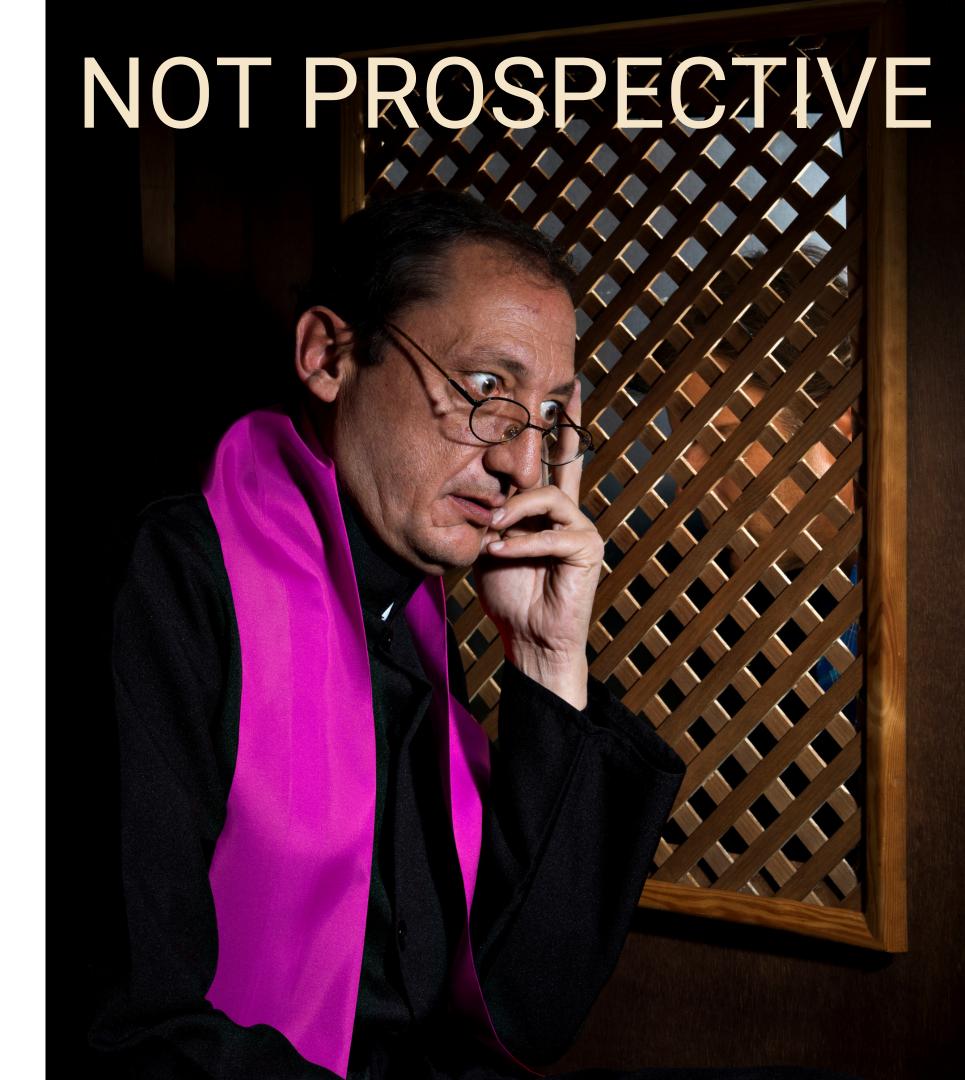


The Commission provides advice and guidance regarding the duties of those who are subject to the Ethics Act

Such advice and guidance is in the form of Advices of Counsel and Opinions of the Commission

PROSPECTIVE







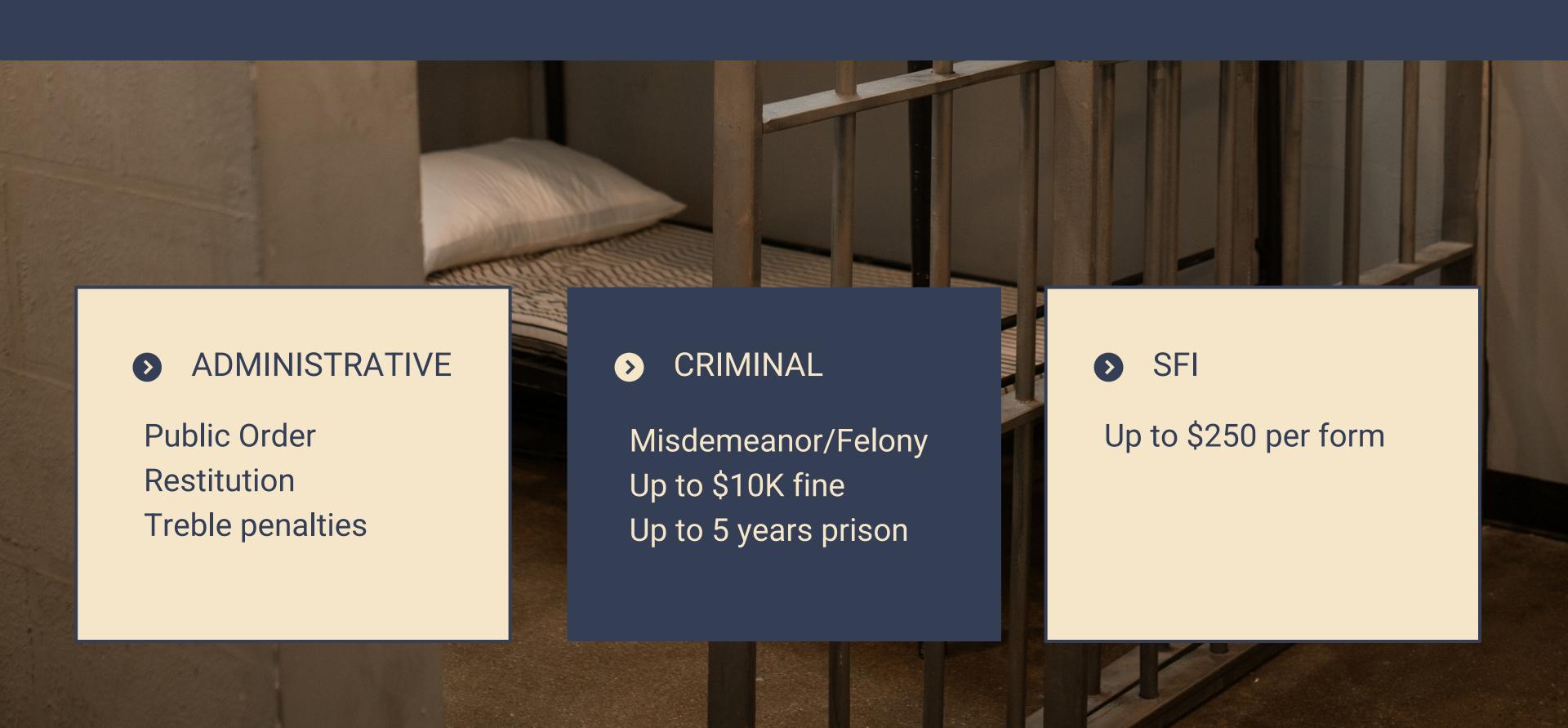
Investigations

Proceedings and records relating to an investigation are confidential

Identity of a complainant is confidential

Final Order is a public record

PENALTIES



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\$250.00 Civil Penalty

\$371.06 Court Costs

Found in Contempt of Court

Warrant for Arrest

SFI Shown to Whole State

PRICELESS:



Questions?

Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission www.ethics.pa.gov
717-783-1610