

ETHICS AT A GLANCE

State Ethics Laws - Does working from home change how they apply?



Whether in the office or at home,
ethics rules still apply



Overview

It is crucial to remember that, despite the work-from-home environment, the state's ethics rules regarding gifts, outside activities, use of state resources, charitable fundraising, and conflicts of interest **continue to apply** to all state officers and employees.

Common questions regarding state ethics laws and working from home include:

- Can I accept financial support from a friend with business before my agency?
- Does my physical location change how state ethics laws impact me?
- Do I need approval to take on a second job?
- My office loaned me a laptop so that I could work from home. Can I use it for personal purposes outside normal work hours?

To ensure you act appropriately under the ethics laws, ask your agency's Ethics Officer when in doubt.

[More information on the Public Officers Law is available on COELIG's website.](#)

Questions?

Contact us by calling 1-800-87-ETHICS (3-8442) or by e-mail at GUIDANCE@ETHICS.NY.GOV.

All guidance communications with COELIG are confidential.

October 2023