

# ETHICS AT A GLANCE

*Gifts, Tips, or Presents - Can I accept them?*



Just say no, thank you  
to gifts, tips, or presents offered by people  
whom you have helped as part of your job



## Overview

As a state employee, you must comply with the requirements in the Public Officers Law. One of those requirements is that you not accept a gift from a person when it **appears that the gift was intended as a reward for any official action** on your part or when it would be reasonable to believe that the gift is intended to influence your performance of your official duties. This prohibition includes tips as well.

***A “gift” can generally be any item or service that is valued at more than \$15.***

- If, for example, someone offers you a tip, a meal, a trip, or cash in a show of appreciation for the job you've done, it is best to decline the offer.
- State employees who violate the gift ban are subject to a **fine of up to \$40,000** and the value of the gift.

[More information on gift restrictions for state officers and employees 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](mailto:GUIDANCE@ETHICS.NY.GOV).  
All guidance communications with COELIG are confidential.

October 2023