

Summary of Major Ethics Rules for Government Employees

1. A Government employee must place loyalty to the public trust above anyone's private gain.
 - Prevent conflicts of interest. ("Don't serve two masters.")
 - Avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. ("Employees must be above reproach.")

(Subpart A of the New Standards of Conduct)

2. Restrictions on gifts: With some exceptions, an employee must not accept a gift from a prohibited source or given because of the employee's official position. (Subpart B)
3. Gifts to official superiors are prohibited. (Subpart C)
4. An employee must not take any official action which affects his or her financial interests. (Subpart D)
5. An employee should not take any official action in circumstances where a reasonable person would question the employee's impartiality in that action. (Subpart E)
6. An employee must not take any official action which affects the financial interest of any person or entity with whom the employee is negotiating for employment. (Subpart F)
7. An employee must not use his or her public office – including official time, information, property or endorsements – for personal gain or the private gain of anyone. (Subpart G)
8. An employee must not engage in any outside employment or outside activity which conflicts with his or her official duties. (Subpart H)
9. An employee must comply with all ethics laws and regulations. (Subpart I)

When in doubt, seek advice from an ethics counselor. It could save you and the VA a lot of trouble.