

Conflict of Interest Policy

Legal Definition of Conflict of Interest: Iowa Code 68B: Conflict of Interest of Public Officers and Employees

The Iowa Code defines conflict of interest as a board member as "intentional personal benefit for the member and/or their spouse." A conviction on a charge of conflict of interest is a serious misdemeanor.

I. Purpose

This conflict of interest policy is designed to assure objectivity in decision-making by and on behalf of the local board of health and to avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict. Because of the public service mission of public health, it is important that the community have confidence in its local board of health. In order to deal with the issue of conflict of interest and to encourage disclosure, the county attorney should be consulted for policy development and review.

A conflict of interest may exist when the interests of any board of health member, their spouse, or anyone to which they have allegiance, may be seen as competing with the interests of the Board and/or the agency it governs.

Each Board of Health member will promptly notify the Chairperson of the Board, upon becoming aware of any conflict of interest issues.

In the event it is not clear that a conflict of interest exists, the individual with the potential conflict will disclose the circumstances to the Board of Health. The matter shall be resolved by a vote of the Board. Interested members will abstain from voting.

II. Procedure

1. Conflict of interest will be covered in orientation for all new board members.
2. Full disclosure will be made at the time of consideration of a contract or any other business for which there is a conflict of interest.
3. A Board of Health member will abstain from voting on any decision in which there is a conflict of interest.
4. The minutes of the meeting of the Board will reflect that the conflict of interest was disclosed and that the interested Board of Health member did not vote.
5. A conflict of interest disclosure statement shall be furnished annually by each Board of Health member.