

ETHICS INVESTIGATIONS IN GOV'T

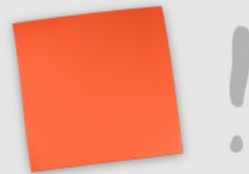
Interim I.G. - Nigel Lange
Deputy I.G. - Richard Schneider

INTRO



GEORGIA OIG

ETHICS



THE STANDARDS

WHY TALK ABOUT ETHICS?



GEORGIA - OIG

Office of the State Inspector General

Originally established via Executive Order in 2003 (Gov. Purdue)

Total staff: 11

OIG MISSION

SB59

AUTHORITY

OIG MISSION

Our mission is to *promote transparency and accountability in state government. OIG diligently investigates fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption in the executive branch. We work to promote effective controls, improve agency policies and procedures, and identify opportunities for efficiency. We also provide statewide oversight of sexual harassment investigations.*

AUTHORITY

Investigate fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption in the executive branch.

- Includes administrative investigations of ethics complaints, audits, and evaluations.
- When appropriate, reports of investigation are forwarded for prosecutor review to determine if the underlying facts give rise to criminal prosecution.

Conduct impartial sexual harassment investigations and audit compliance with the Statewide Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy.

Conduct fraud awareness and ethics training.

SENATE BILL 59

Passed and signed March 29, 2023.

1

Establishes GA OIG in statute (O.C.G.A. §§ 45-12-210 - 45-12-216).

2

Expands authority.

3

Allows for employment of peace officers.

GEORGIA - OIG

Office of the State Inspector General

Originally established via Executive Order in 2003 (Gov. Purdue)

Total staff: 11

OIG MISSION

SB59

AUTHORITY

ETHICS INVESTIGATIONS IN GOV'T

Interim I.G. - Nigel Lange
Deputy I.G. - Richard Schneider

INTRO



GEORGIA OIG

ETHICS



THE STANDARDS

WHY TALK ABOUT ETHICS?



ETHICS

Greek "Ethos" - customs, conduct, character.

Values and morals an individual or society find desirable or appropriate.



WASTE

FRAUD

ABUSE

FRAUD

An intentionally deceptive act designed to provide the perpetrator with an unlawful gain, or to deny a right to a victim.

Ex. Falsified documents submitted in support of grant application.

WASTE

A reckless or grossly negligent act that causes funds to be spent in a manner that was not authorized or represents significant inefficiency and needless expense.

Ex. A program fails to implement common internal controls and allows payments to be sent to unqualified recipient(s) or incorrect vendor(s).

ABUSE

The intentional, wrongful, or improper use or destruction of resources.

Ex. Use of institution vehicles for extensive personal travel.

ETHICS

Greek "Ethos" - customs, conduct, character.

Values and morals an individual or society find desirable or appropriate.



WASTE

FRAUD

ABUSE

ETHICS INVESTIGATIONS IN GOV'T

Interim I.G. - Nigel Lange
Deputy I.G. - Richard Schneider

INTRO



GEORGIA OIG

ETHICS



THE STANDARDS

WHY TALK ABOUT ETHICS?



WHAT IS ETHICAL?

By what standard do we judge facts and circumstances?

THE STANDARD

O.C.G.A § 45-10-1

O.C.G.A § 45-10-3

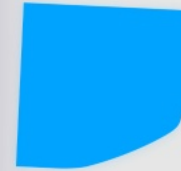
Governor's Executive Order on Ethics

GOVERNOR'S
EXECUTIVE
ORDER

FACTORS FOR
UNETHICAL
BEHAVIOR

HIGHLIGHTS

- Creates Ethics Officer
- Recusal and Disclosure of Conflicts
- Gifts
- Judicial Appointments
- Political Activities
- Personal Use of Telephone/Internet
- Outside Employment



RECUSAL AND DISCLOSURE



GIFTS



OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

RECUSAL & DISCLOSURE

Employees **shall** recuse themselves from any situation in which the employee has a **conflict of interest** or where an employee's impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to the employee's **personal for financial relationship** with a participant in the proceeding.

Discuss with ethics officer.

GIFTS

Gifts related to tradition, ceremony, or inter-governmental relations are permitted when accepted on behalf of the agency.

Any gift or expenditure that could not be received directly may not be received indirectly.

Offering, paying, solicitation, or acceptance of bribes shall be strictly prohibited as it is by state criminal law.

Actual and reasonable expenses for travel, transportation, or lodging in excess of \$75 must be reported within 30 days to ethics officer.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

Employees may serve on boards or commissions of gov't entities with agency approval.

In general, should not serve as officer or director of a non-governmental business entity or non-profit corporation. Unless:

- Subject to agency approval, business or non-profit does not seek funding from the state;

- Subject to approval from Gov. Executive Council, business or non-profit seeks funding from state, but:

 - is directly related to employee's employment, or

 - employee has been requested to do so by Gov., agency, or is required by rule or law.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Creates Ethics Officer
- Recusal and Disclosure of Conflicts
- Gifts
- Judicial Appointments
- Political Activities
- Personal Use of Telephone/Internet
- Outside Employment



RECUSAL AND DISCLOSURE



GIFTS



OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

WHAT IS ETHICAL?

By what standard do we judge facts and circumstances?

THE STANDARD

O.C.G.A § 45-10-1

O.C.G.A § 45-10-3

Governor's Executive Order on Ethics

**GOVERNOR'S
EXECUTIVE
ORDER**

**FACTORS FOR
UNETHICAL
BEHAVIOR**

KEY FACTORS LEADING TO UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR

- Culture of misplaced trust
- Internal control weaknesses
- Improper segregation of duties
- Lack of oversight
- Supervisors delegate their approval authority
- Reconciliation and approval responsibilities are not adequate

WHAT IS ETHICAL?

By what standard do we judge facts and circumstances?

THE STANDARD

O.C.G.A § 45-10-1

O.C.G.A § 45-10-3

Governor's Executive Order on Ethics

GOVERNOR'S
EXECUTIVE
ORDER

FACTORS FOR
UNETHICAL
BEHAVIOR

ETHICS INVESTIGATIONS IN GOV'T

Interim I.G. - Nigel Lange
Deputy I.G. - Richard Schneider

INTRO



GEORGIA OIG

ETHICS



THE STANDARDS

WHY TALK ABOUT ETHICS?



ETHICS

Your bread and butter

10-80-10 rule

Doing what's right

EMPLOYEE ETHICS
EXECUTIVE ORDER

EMPLOYEE ETHICS
O.C.G.A. 45-10-1

EMPLOYEE ETHICS - EXECUTIVE ORDER

Employees shall use their positions to further the public interest and *not for any financial or personal benefit*.

Employees shall *avoid conflicts of interest* and shall make every effort to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

No employee shall take any action in his or her official capacity which he or she knows or should know *could result in a financial benefit to themselves* or a relative at any present or future time.

EMPLOYEE ETHICS - O.C.G.A. 45-10-1

Any person in government service should:

- I. Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and to country above loyalty to persons, party, or government department.
- II. Uphold the Constitution, laws, and legal regulations of the United States and the State of Georgia and of all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.
- III. **Give a full day's labor for a full day's pay** and give to the performance of his duties his earnest effort and best thought.
- IV. Seek to find and employ more efficient and economical ways of getting tasks accomplished.
- V. Never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of **special favors** or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not, and **never accept, for himself or his family, favors** or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of his governmental duties.
- VI. Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of office, since a government employee has no private word which can be binding on public duty.
- VII. Engage in no business with the government, either directly or indirectly, which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of his governmental duties.
- VIII. Never use any information coming to him confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means for **making private profit**.
- IX. Expose corruption wherever discovered.
- X. Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.

ETHICS

Your bread and butter

10-80-10 rule

Doing what's right

EMPLOYEE ETHICS
EXECUTIVE ORDER

EMPLOYEE ETHICS
O.C.G.A. 45-10-1

ETHICS INVESTIGATIONS IN GOV'T

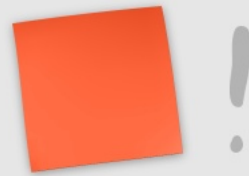
Interim I.G. - Nigel Lange
Deputy I.G. - Richard Schneider

INTRO



GEORGIA OIG

ETHICS



THE STANDARDS

WHY TALK ABOUT ETHICS?

