## Guide to Texas Ethics Law and Disclosure Law

V. G. Young School for County Commissioners Courts February 2022

Michael Pichinson, General Counsel



## Questions? Give us a ring!



## Why are we here?

### **Conflicts**

Who you can and can't do business with.

?

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### Nepotism

Who you can and can't hire.

?

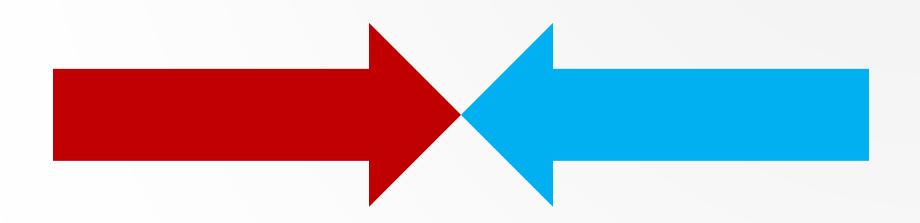


### **Ethics**

Other ways you can get in trouble.



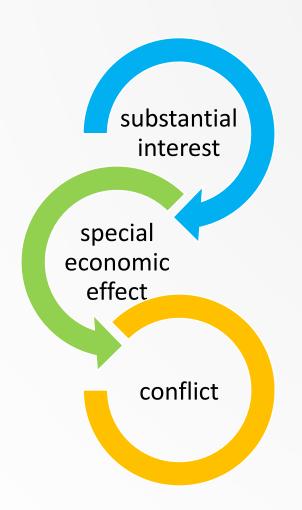
## **CONFLICTS – THE BASICS**



# WHAT IS A "SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST"?



## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST TEST**

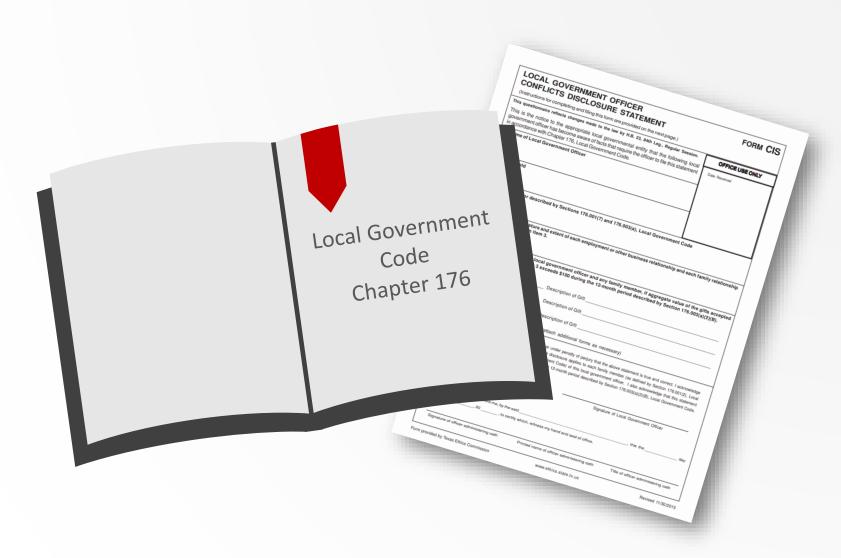


## **CONFLICTS & OATH OF OFFICE**

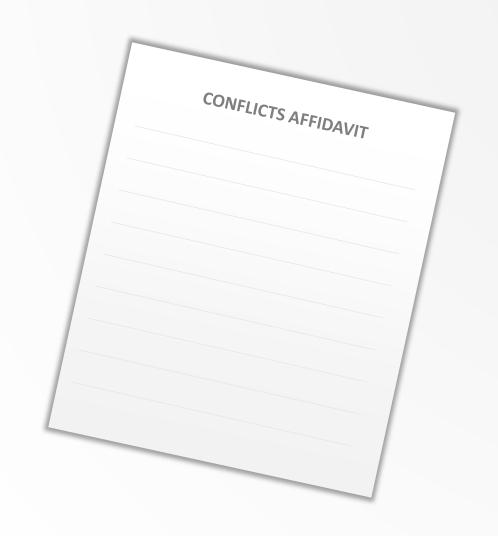


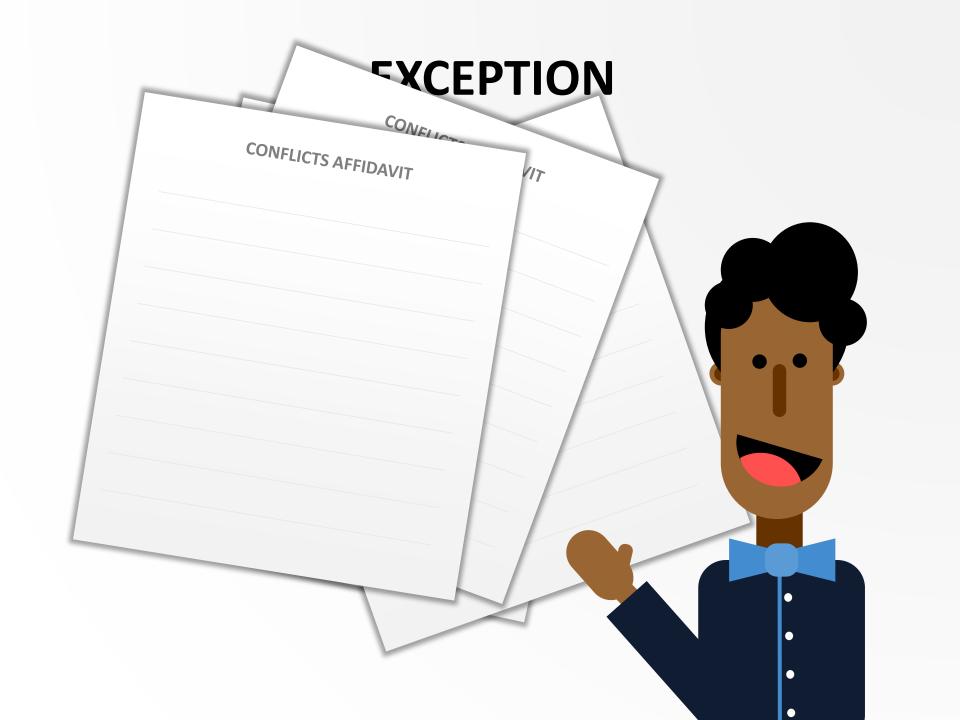
"no direct or indirect interest in contract with the county"

## **CERTAIN BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS**



## WHAT IF YOU HAVE A CONFLICT?





# OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

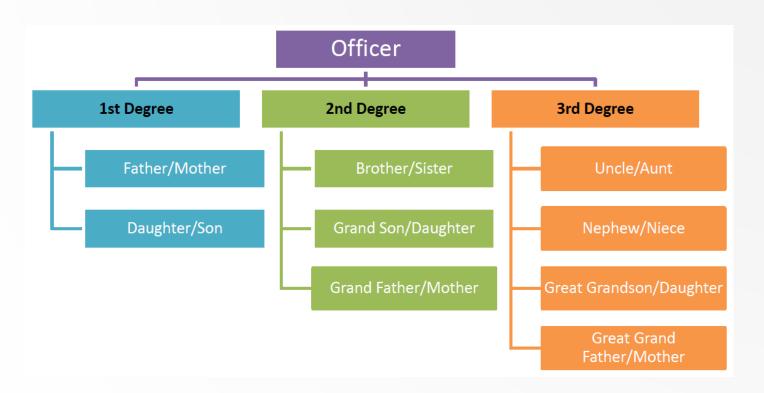
# Nepotism Who you can and can't hire.

## **NEPOTISM TERMS**

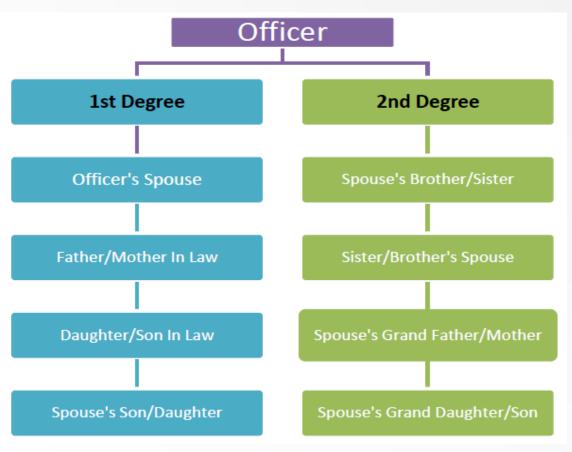




# CONSANGUINITY (RELATIONSHIP BY BLOOD)



# AFFINITY (RELATIONSHIP BY MARRIAGE)



## **EXCEPTIONS**



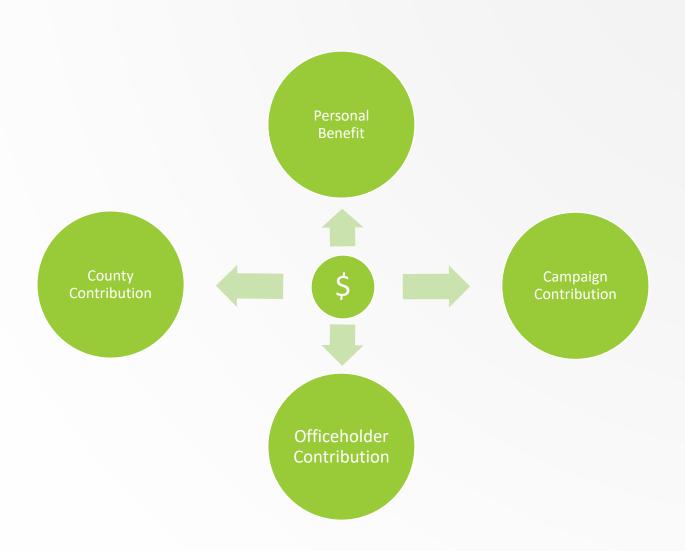
# OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT



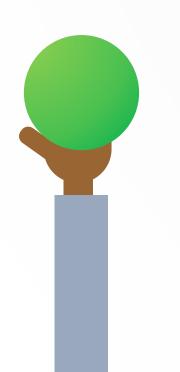
## ETHICS - CHAPTER 36

## BENEFIT

## CHARACTERIZE THE BENEFIT



## CHAPTER 36 – BRIBERY





## **CHAPTER 36 – OTHER ISSUES**



## PERSONAL BENEFIT - EXCEPTIONS



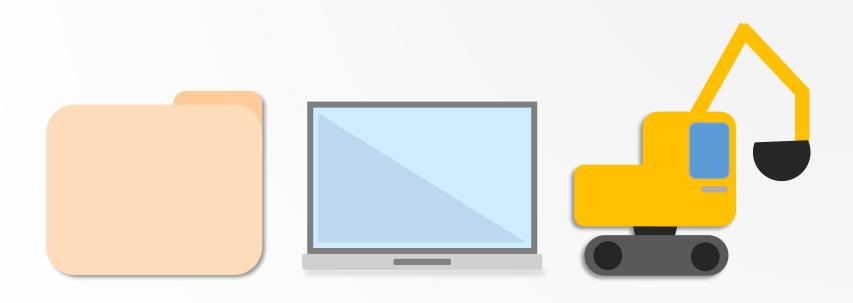
## TITLE 15 – CONTRIBUTIONS



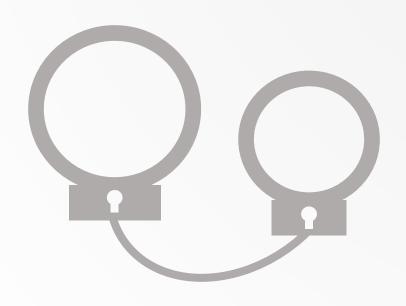
## CHAPTER 37 – FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS



## **CHAPTER 39 - ABUSE OF OFFICE**



## CHAPTER 39 – OFFICIAL OPPRESSION

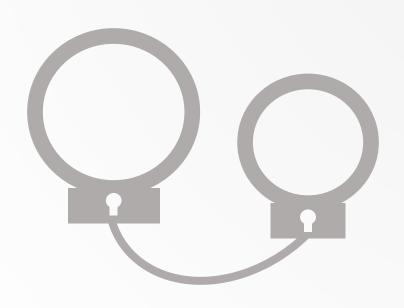


## CHAPTER 39 – MISUSE OF INFORMATION

## **CHAPTER 39 – PROSECUTION**



# CHAPTER 39 – LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATED ISSUES



# OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

## **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**



## **OFFICIAL IMMUNITY**



### **RESOURCES**



## Questions? Give us a ring!

