

Advisory Opinion Update

On February 21, 2013 the *Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board* met and decided on the opinion, summarized below. Click on the AO number to read the full text of the opinion.

ADVISORY OPINION NO. 2013-1, Application of the Code of Ethics Concerning the Acceptance of an Award

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that, because the award was given to the state employee for her overall job performance (rather than for her performance of any specific tasks in her state job), she may accept it, in accordance with [Advisory Opinion 92-1](#), provided that she was not involved in the selection process, and that the award was neither established or funded by persons regulated by, doing business with, or seeking to do business with her state employer.

You may search Advisory Opinions by using the search engine located at the top right side of our website: www.ct.gov/ethics.

Agency Ethics Liaisons – Preparation to meet May 1st Filing Deadline

Please make certain your list of designated agency filers is complete and accurate in the filing system by Friday, March 8, 2013.

Statements of Financial Interests ("SFIs") serve as a tool to maximize public confidence in governmental decision making. The policy underlying this requirement has been in effect since the enactment of the Ethics Codes in 1977. An SFI provides a checklist or reminder to the public official or state employee to be mindful of potential conflicts of interest, and it provides a baseline of information which can be compared to subsequent years for the purpose of determining potential misuse of office for financial gain.

This year Governor Malloy has issued Standard and Designation Guidelines, which will be helpful in assisting your agency head in making determinations concerning required filers.

View: [Governor Dannel P. Malloy's Standard and Designation Guidelines](#)

For assistance on how to maintain filers please contact us at 860-263-2400 or refer to the [Guide to the Statements of Financial Interests Filing System for Agency Ethics Liaisons](#)

The Office of State Ethics will notify each designated individual of his or her obligation to file March 11, 2013.

Remember:

Please encourage filers to file electronically. Utilizing the online SFI filing system is recommended because it is:

- User-Friendly and will store filer data from year to year, so that the following year a filer does not need to re-enter information that has not changed.
- **Does not** make filings available online for public access. Filings are only released when requested pursuant to Freedom of Information; the same is true for paper filings.
- Faster, more convenient and secure.
- Saves paper, no envelope, no postage and protects our environment!
- Effective toward streamlining and increasing government efficiency, since paper filings are manually scanned and indexed into the online SFI filing system.

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