

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

INTRODUCTION/WHO MUST FILE

Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-701(a) requires that the following persons file a written Statement of Financial Interest on an annual basis:

- A public official, as defined by Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-402(17);
- A candidate for elective office;
- A district judge; or city attorney, whether elected or appointed;
- Any agency head, department director, or division director of state government;
- Any chief of staff or chief deputy of a constitutional officer, the Senate, or the House of Representatives;
- Any public appointee to any state board or commission (who possesses regulatory authority or is authorized to receive or disburse state or federal funds);¹
- All persons who are elected members of a school board or who are candidates for a position on a school board;
- All public and charter school superintendents;
- All executive directors of education service cooperatives;
- Any person appointed to a municipal, county or regional (i) planning board or commission, (ii) airport board or commission, (iii) water or sewer board or commission, (iv) utility board or commission, or (v) civil service commission;
- Any member of an advertising and promotion commission; and
- Any member of a research park authority board under Ark. Code Ann. § 14-144-201 et seq.

The Arkansas Ethics Commission, which enforces this statute, has prepared these instructions, along with the office of the Secretary of State, whose office maintains the records, to assist persons required to file these statements. If you have any questions concerning the reporting requirements or how to fill out your Statement of Financial Interest, call or write either the **Arkansas Ethics Commission**, Post Office Box 1917, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1917, telephone (501) 324-9600 or the **Secretary of State, Elections Division**, State Capitol, Room 026, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, telephone (501) 682-5070.

When preparing the Statement of Financial Interest, please **print or type the information**. You must also sign the Statement in Section 13 and your signature must be attested to before a Notary Public.

¹ Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-701(a)(5)(B), a public appointee to a state board or commission which is not charged by law with the exercise of regulatory authority and which receives or disburses state or federal funds only in the form of mileage reimbursement for members attending meetings of the board or commission is not required file a written Statement of Financial Interest.

TIME FOR FILING/PERIOD COVERED

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-701(c)(1)(A), a Statement of Financial Interest for the previous calendar year “shall be filed by January 31, of each year, except that a candidate for elective office shall file the Statement of Financial Interest for the previous calendar year on the first Monday following the close of the period to file as a candidate for elective office.” Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-705, if the party filing period under Ark. Code Ann. § 7-7-203 ends before January 1 of the year of the general election, a candidate for elective office shall file a Statement of Financial Interest for the previous calendar year no later than January 31 of the year of the general election in addition to the Statement of Financial Interest required under Ark. Code Ann. § 12-8-701.

Moreover, an agency head, department director, or division director of state government and any public appointee to a state board or commission authorized or charged by law with the exercise of regulatory authority or authorized to receive or disburse state or federal funds shall file a Statement of Financial Interest for the previous calendar year within thirty (30) days after appointment or employment. Incumbent officeholders who filed a Statement of Financial Interest for the previous calendar year by January 31 of the year in which an election is held are not required to file an additional Statement of Financial Interest upon becoming a candidate for reelection or election to another office during the year. Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-701(c)(2). If a person required to file a Statement of Financial Interest leaves his or her office or position during a particular calendar year, he or she shall still be required to file a Statement of Financial Interest covering that part of the year which he or she held the office or position. Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-701(c)(1)(B).

WHERE TO FILE

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-703, the Statement of Financial Interest shall be filed as follows:

- (1) State or district public servants (including appointees to state boards/ commissions) and candidates for state or district public office are required to file the statement with the Secretary of State;
- (2) County, township, or school district public servants and candidates for county, township, or school district public office are required to file the statement with the county clerks;
- (3) Municipal public servants and candidates for municipal office are required to file the statement with the city clerk or recorder;
- (4) City attorneys, whether elected or appointed, are required to file the statement with the city clerk of the municipality within which they serve;
- (5) Members of regional boards or commissions are required to file the statement with the county clerk of the county in which they reside; and
- (6) District judges are required to file the statement with the Secretary of State.

SPECIFIC REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

SECTION 1 (Name and Address)

Answer each of these questions or indicate “Not Applicable”. List all names under which you and/or your spouse do business.

SECTION 2 (Reason for Filing)

Check the box applicable to you and provide the office/position held or name of the board, commission or school district in the appropriate space.

SECTION 3 (Sources of Income)

The term “gross income” is intended to be comprehensive. It refers to all income from whatever source derived, including but not limited to compensation for services, fees, commissions, and income derived from business interests. Report each employer and/or each other source of income from which you, your spouse, or any other person for the use or benefit of you or your spouse receives gross income exceeding \$1,000 on an annual basis. Include your governmental income from the office or position which requires your filing of this form. You are required to use the gross amount received as income. Thus, you must compute your total income from any particular source without first deducting expenses.

You are not required to list the individual items of gross income that constitute a portion of the income of the business or profession from which you or your spouse derives income. (For example: Accountants, attorneys, farmers, contractors, etc. do not have to list their individual clients.) If more than one source/employer/entity compensated you during the past year, you are required to list each source of income greater than \$1,000. If you or your spouse received speaking honoraria, you must report, under the request for “source”, the sponsor of each event for which a payment was made for your speech or appearance, as well as the date and dollar category (“more than \$1,000.00” or “more than \$12,500.00”). The term “honoraria”, as used herein, means a payment of money or any thing of value for an appearance, speech, or article. NOTE: Food, lodging, and travel provided to a public servant in connection with an appearance would not constitute honoraria if the public servant is appearing in his or her official capacity and the appearance bears a relationship to the public servant’s office or position. Section 10 of the Statement of Financial Interest addresses the reporting of payment for such food, lodging, and travel.

You must also provide a brief description of the nature of the services for which the income was received, as well as the name under which the income was received. For example:

Source	Description	Amount
State of Arkansas (address) John Doe	Executive Dir.	More than \$12,500.00
University of Arkansas (address) John M. Doe	Teaching	More than \$12,500.00
450 Main Street, Little Rock, Arkansas John M. Doe	Rent Income	More than \$12,500.00
Ark. Med. Society Annual Meeting (address) John Doe	Speaking fee Oct. 2, Little Rock	More than \$1,000.00
Star National Bank Star, Arkansas John or Jane Doe	Interest Income	More than \$1,000.00
City of Mayberry (address) Jane Doe	Spouse income	More than \$12,500.00
Ark. Bar Association Annual Meeting (address) Jane Doe	Speaking Fee Spouse, June 12 Hot Springs	More than \$1,000.00

Section 4 (Business or Holdings)

In this section, list the name of every business in which you, your spouse or any other person for the use or benefit of you or your spouse have an investment or holding. Stocks, bonds, stock options and other securities held by you or your spouse must be reported. Figures for these items, as well as all other holdings or accounts, should be based on fair market value at the end of the reporting period.

For **securities, stocks, or bonds**, you must disclose each security held in your portfolio which exceeds the \$1,000.00 threshold. If securities are held through an investment firm, the firm will normally provide periodic statements from which you may obtain the information required to be disclosed. If you own different types of securities issued by the same authority, such as U. S. Treasury obligations or bonds, it is not necessary to provide an itemized list of each security worth

over \$1,000.00. Rather, you may simply report the aggregate value of the securities issued by the same authority and identify the type of securities.

In the case of **mutual funds or similar investments**, you need not disclose specific stocks held in a widely diversified investment trust or mutual fund as long as the holdings of the trust or fund are a matter of public record and you have no ability to exercise control over the specific holdings. If you have such control, you must disclose each holding exceeding the threshold level of \$1,000.00, whether or not you exercise the control. Otherwise, you may simply disclose the name, address, etc. of the authority through which your mutual fund is invested (e.g., IDS), the category of the fund and the category of the appropriate amount (e.g., “more than \$1,000.00”).

In the case of **bank accounts**, if the total of accounts (including certificates of deposit) deposited in a particular bank exceeds \$1,000.00, list each institution holding more than \$1,000.00. If no particular bank holds more than \$1,000.00, you need not report any bank accounts. All accounts at one institution, including those for your spouse, may be combined as one entry. Thus, for example, you may report a checking account, savings account, certificate of deposit, and IRA in Smith First National Bank of Arkansas by checking the gross total of the accounts (e.g., “more than \$1,000.00”) and stating “Smith First National Bank of Arkansas” with its address. You need not list each account. If you are listed on an account purely for custodial reasons, and you do not assert any ownership rights to the assets in the account (for example, if you are a joint tenant with an elderly relative), you need not list the account.

For any business interest, if you or your spouse has an interest in a proprietorship, partnership, or corporation that is actively engaged in a trade or business, you must disclose the name and address of each interest. It is not necessary to provide an itemized list of the assets of the business. For example, you need only categorize the total value of your interest (e.g., “more than \$12,500.00”) and not items such as “office equipment.” This includes each asset held in trust for you or your spouse which has a value greater than \$1,000.00. Holdings of a trust for which you or your spouse are merely an administrator and for which you have no beneficial interest need not be reported.

Section 5 (Office or Directorship)

You must report your nongovernmental offices and directorships held by you or your spouse in any business, corporation, firm, or enterprise subject to the jurisdiction of a regulatory agency of this State, or any of its political subdivisions. For each such business, provide the name of the business, its address, the office or directorship held and the name of the person (either you or your spouse) who holds the office or directorship. A “regulatory agency”, as defined by Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-301(1), means any “state board, commission, department, or officer authorized by law to make rules or to adjudicate contested cases except those in the legislative or judicial branches.”

Section 6 (Creditors)

You must report the name and address of each creditor to whom the value of \$5,000.00 or more is personally owed and outstanding at the end of the reporting period. All information regarding a single creditor may be reported in a single entry. If you have more than one liability owed to the same creditor, add up the items of credit to determine if the \$5,000.00 threshold has

been met. The identity of the creditor is the name of the person or organization to which the liability is owed (e.g., “Bob Smith, 1000 Elm Street, Little Rock, Arkansas”).

You do not need to include debts owed to members of your family. You may also exclude loans made in the ordinary course of business by either a financial institution or a person who regularly and customarily extends credit. This exclusion applies to such items as a mortgage secured by real property which is your personal residence, credit extended to purchase personal items such as furniture or appliances, credit card debts, and car loans, provided the credit does not exceed the value of the item purchased.

Debts not incurred in the ordinary course of business include, but are not limited to, such items as legal judgments, judgment liens, money borrowed from individuals, other than family members, who are not normally in the business of lending money, and tax liens owed to any governmental agency.

Section 7 (Past-Due Amounts Owed to Government)

You must report the name and address of each governmental body to which you are legally obligated to pay a past-due amount and a description of the nature and amount of the obligation. Such debts include, but are not limited to tax liens owed to any governmental agency or other legally obligated debts in which you may be in default to a governmental body.

Section 8 (Guarantor, Co-Maker)

The law requires you to provide the name and address of each guarantor or co-maker, other than a member of your family, who has guaranteed a debt which is still outstanding. The \$5,000.00 threshold of Section 6 does not apply here. To the extent that you have a guarantor or co-maker of any of your outstanding debts, the guarantor or co-maker must be disclosed. There is no exception for debts incurred in the ordinary course of business. This requirement also includes debts arising, extended or refinanced after January 1, 1989.

This requirement extends to situations where you have co-signed a loan to assist another person in obtaining credit, unless the person is a member of your family.

Section 9 (Gifts)

The law requires you to identify the source, date, description, and a reasonable estimate of the fair market value of each gift of more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) received by you or your spouse during the reporting period or more than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) received by your dependent children during the reporting period. A gift is any “payment, entertainment, advance, services, or anything of value” unless consideration of equal or greater value has been given therefor. The value of an item shall be considered to be less than one hundred dollars (\$100) if the public servant reimburses the person from whom the item was received any amount over one hundred dollars (\$100) and the reimbursement occurs within ten (10) days from the date the item was received. All types of gifts must be reported. Items such as food, lodging, and travel are considered gifts unless they are received when you are appearing in your official capacity and the appearance bears a relationship to your office or position. [Note: The reporting of food, lodging,

and travel received by a public servant who is appearing in his or her official capacity at an event which bears a relationship to his or her office or position is addressed in Section 11 below.]

A gift can be a tangible item, such as a watch, or an intangible item, such as a hunting or fishing trip. A gift does not include (1) informational material; (2) receiving food, lodging, or travel which bears a relationship to the public servant's office and when appearing in an official capacity; (3) gifts which are not used and returned to the donor within 30 days; (4) gifts from a family member listed in Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-402(5)(B)(iv), unless the family member is acting as an agent for a person not covered by the exception; (5) campaign contributions; (6) devises or inheritances; (7) anything with a value of \$100 or less; (8) wedding presents and engagement gifts; (9) a monetary or other award presented to an employee of a public school district, the Arkansas School for the Blind, the Arkansas School for the Deaf, the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, a university, a college, a technical college, a technical institute, a comprehensive life-long learning center, or a community college in recognition of the employee's contribution to education; (10) tickets to charitable fundraising events held within this state by a non-profit organization which is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (11) a personalized award, plaque, or trophy with a value of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) or less; (12) an item which appointed or elected members of a specific governmental body purchase with their own personal funds and present to a fellow member of that governmental body in recognition of public service; (13) food or beverages provided at a conference scheduled event that is part of the program of the conference; (14) food or beverages provided in return for participation in a bona fide panel, seminar, speaking engagement at which the audience is a civic, social, or cultural organization or group; (15) a monetary or other award publicly presented to an employee of state government in recognition of his or her contributions to the community and State of Arkansas when the presentation is made by the employee's supervisor or peers, individually or through a non-profit organization which is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the employee's receipt of the award would not result in or create the appearance of the employee using his or her position for private gain, giving preferential treatment to any person, or losing independence or impartiality (This exception shall not apply to an award presented to an employee of state government by a person having economic interests which may be affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's duties or responsibilities.); and (16) anything of value provided by a political party under Ark. Code Ann. § 7-1-101 or § 7-7-205 when serving as the host of the following events to all attendees as part of attendance at the event: (A) the official swearing-in, inaugural, and recognition events of constitutional officers and members of the general assembly; and (B) an official event of a recognized political party so long as all members of either house of the General Assembly affiliated with the recognized political party are invited to the official event.

In reporting a gift, you must report the source, the date it was received, a reasonable estimate of its fair market value, and a brief description. In that regard, the Ethics Commission has issued opinions concerning the "fair market value" of such items as transportation on a private aircraft. A group of items received from the same source at the same time would be considered one gift and the separate values should be added together. As an example, if you receive a tie and tie clip (valued \$50.00) along with a pair of golf shoes (valued at \$75) from one donor, this should be reported and described in Section 9, as the receipt of a gift, "tie, tie clip and shoes." The value would be \$125.00. Similarly, food and beverages provided you in connection with lodging should be aggregated to ascertain if the threshold reporting level has been reached. If you are unsure if the value should be

aggregated for purposes of reporting, you may wish to contact the Arkansas Ethics Commission for an opinion.

In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-804, certain designated officials are authorized to accept gifts, grants, and donations of money or property on behalf of the State of Arkansas, the Arkansas Senate, the Arkansas House of Representatives, and the Arkansas Supreme Court. In addition, the designated officials are authorized to accept donations of money for the purpose of hosting official swearing-in and inaugural events of the constitutional officers, Senate, House of Representatives, and Supreme Court justices, the official recognition event for the President Pro Tempore, and the official recognition event for the Speaker of the House. The public official accepting the gift, grant, or donation of money or property on behalf of an appropriate entity is not required to disclose same on his or her Statement of Financial Interest. Instead, public servants are required to report such gifts, grants, or donations of money or property to the Ethics Commission on a quarterly basis on a separate disclosure form prepared for such purposes.

Section 10 (Awards)

If you are an employee of a public school district, the Arkansas School for the Blind, the Arkansas School for the Deaf, the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, a university, a college, a technical college, a technical institute, a comprehensive life-long learning center, or a community college, the law requires you to disclose each monetary or other award over one hundred dollars (\$100) which you have received in recognition of your contributions to education. The information disclosed with respect to each such award should include the source, date, description, and a reasonable estimate of the fair market value.

Section 11 (Nongovernmental Sources of Payment)

Payments for food, lodging, or travel are not considered a gift in situations where a public servant is appearing in his or her official capacity and the appearance bears a relationship to the public servant's office or position. However, Section 11 requires that each nongovernmental source of payment of expenses for such food, lodging, or travel be listed when the expenses paid by that source exceed \$150.00. [Note: The reporting of money or things of value received when you are not appearing in an official capacity or the appearance does not bear a relationship to your office or position is addressed in Section 3 ("Sources of Income") or Section 9 ("Gifts).] In this regard, you must list the name and business address of the person or organization which has paid your expenses, the date, nature, and amount of the expenses unless such person or organization was compensated by the governmental body for which the public servant serves. Thus, you must disclose in this section, lodging or travel received in connection with such activities as speaking engagements, conferences, or fact finding events related to your official duties.

Section 11 requires the disclosure of each nongovernmental source of payment when the expenses paid in connection with a particular appearance exceed \$150.00. Thus, if one source provides lodging and food and the total amount paid exceeds \$150.00, that source must be reported in this section.

The **organization** is the source of payment. It should be the name of the sponsor actually paying or providing the expenses. The **date of expenses** should be the inclusive dates of all travel provided. If the travel all occurred on one day, report that day. Otherwise, list the starting and ending dates of each trip provided (i.e., “May 1 - 5, 1997”).

It is permissible to extend the duration of a trip at your own expense, accepting return travel from the sponsor. However, to avoid suggesting that travel was accepted for a longer period of time than was actually the case, you should indicate any time not spent at the sponsor’s expense on either the line requesting the “date” or “nature” of expenses. For example, using the dates listed above, you could report “May 1 - 5, 1997. May 3 - 4 on personal business, expenses paid by me.”

Section 12 (Direct Regulation of Business)

The law requires you to list any business by whom you are employed if the business is under direct regulation or subject to direct control by the governmental body which you serve. You must report the employment by listing the name of this business/employer and provide the governmental body which regulates or controls aspects of the business. Such a business relationship typically exists if your private employer is subject to any rules or regulations of a governmental body or if a governmental body adjudicates contested cases of fact involving your private employer. For example, if you work as a licensed dentist, the appropriate regulatory governing body may be the State Board of Dental Examiners.

Whether your business is under direct regulation or subject to direct control by a governing body is often a question of fact. If you are unsure, you should contact the Arkansas Ethics Commission or, if you know, the agency you suspect may regulate part or all of your activities.

Section 13 (Sales to Governmental Body)

The law requires you to report certain business relationships with the government if a significant sale of goods or services occurs. Specifically, you must set out in detail the goods or services sold having a total annual value in excess of \$1,000.00 sold to the governmental body for which you serve or are employed and the compensation paid for each category of goods or services by you or any business in which you or your spouse is an officer, director, stockholder owning more than ten percent (10%) of the stock, owner, trustee, or partner.

Section 14 (Signature)

Under the law, each person, required to file a Statement of Financial Interest must prepare the statement under penalty of false swearing and sign such form attesting to the truth and accuracy of the information set forth on the form. Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-702. If a person who is required to file a Statement of Financial Interest is called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States, the statement may be completed by the spouse of the person. If the Statement of Financial Interest is completed by the spouse, under this exception, the spouse’s signature shall be sufficient for the requirement of Ark. Code Ann. § 21-8-702.