

Ethics 2 Answers

Scenario 1. Outside service for a non-profit organization may be incompatible with the performance of public duties. The employee may be unaware of the potential conflict. By discussing the ethics concern, you can work with the employee to find a resolution, which most likely would be to discuss the conflicts with the employee and get assurances from them that they would not provide any confidential information to the non-profit organization.

Scenario 2. The offer of employment could create an interest that is incompatible with the performance of your public duties. Expediting the review might also lead a reasonable person to conclude that the offer influenced your official actions. If you are considering the offer, the best thing to do is to disclose the offer to your supervisor and have the review assigned to another employee. Even if you think you can't be influenced, others might disagree. Avoiding the appearance of conflict can be as important as avoiding an actual conflict of interest. If you decline an offer of employment, you can continue to perform your official duties without raising a conflict of interest concern.

Scenario 3. Your inspection conflicts with the performance of your public duties because you have a financial interest in the restaurant. You cannot merely assign the inspection to someone on your staff as a conflict is not removed by delegating the official duty to an employee you supervise because you exercise discretionary judgment over that employee. The best thing to do is to immediately disclose your interest to your supervisor and ask for the inspection to be reassigned to another group.