

**§ 700.537**

who is a relative of the employee. No employee shall supervise a member of his or her own family except in emergency situations.

**§ 700.537 Indebtedness.**

(a) Commission personnel shall pay their just financial obligations in a timely manner, especially those imposed by law, such as Federal, state, or local taxes. For the purposes of this paragraph, "just financial obligation" means one acknowledged by the employee or reduced to judgment by a court.

(b) Employees shall promptly refund any salary overpayments and excess travel advances.

(c) An employee's debts to private creditors are his or her personal concern. Any complaints or questions concerning such obligations will be referred to the employee for handling. Creditors and collectors shall not have access to employees on Agency premises during duty hours.

**§ 700.539 Soliciting contributions.**

(a) An employee shall not solicit a contribution from another employee for a gift to an official superior, make a donation as a gift to an official superior or accept a gift from an employee receiving less pay than himself or herself. (5 U.S.C. 7351) However, this paragraph does not preclude a voluntary gift of nominal value made on a special occasion.

(b) If authorized by the supervisor, an employee may solicit contributions for charitable causes. He or she may also be permitted to collect small donations for gifts for fellow employees for special occasions during slack moments.

**§ 700.541 Fraud or false statement in a Government matter.**

"Whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States, knowingly or wilfully falsifies, conceals or covers up by a trick, scheme or device a material fact, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both (18 U.S.C. 1001)." Special attention is required in

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the certification of time and attendance reports, applications for employment, personnel security forms, requests for travel reimbursement, client certification documents, and purchase orders and receiving forms.

**§ 700.543 Gambling.**

An employee shall not sponsor or participate in any gambling activity during working hours on Government premises.

**§ 700.545 Alcoholism and drug abuse.**

An employee who habitually uses intoxicants to excess is subject to removal (5 U.S.C. 7352). The Relocation Commission recognizes alcoholism and drug abuse as serious and treatable illnesses. Excessive absence and poor work performance are two of the specific problems resulting from excessive use of alcohol and drugs. The Commission management will assist any employee who has such a problem to obtain professional help and will make reasonable allowance as permitted by work schedules to allow an employee approved leave for professional treatment. Anyone who seeks such assistance will be guaranteed confidential handling of his or her case. Disciplinary action will be considered if an employee rejects or ignores treatment or other appropriate assistance.

**§ 700.547 Consuming intoxicants on Government premises or during duty hours.**

Consuming alcohol or non-prescription drugs on agency premises, or while driving or riding in a Government vehicle, or during working hours are prohibited conduct and employees violating this regulation are subject to disciplinary action, including discharge.

**§ 700.549 Employee organizations.**

An employee may not knowingly be a member of an organization of Government employees that advocates the overthrow of the United States' constitutional form of government (5 U.S.C. 7311). Employees are also prohibited from striking against the Federal Government. With these restrictions, an employee has the right to form, join, or assist lawful employee organizations. Similarly, an employee has

also the right to refrain from such activity. In either case, the employee may exercise his or her right freely and without fear of penalty or reprisal and shall be protected in the exercise of such rights.

**§ 700.551 Franking privilege and official stationery.**

An employee is strictly prohibited from using Government franked envelopes with or without applied postage, or official letterhead stationery for personal business. (18 U.S.C. 1719)

**§ 700.553 Use of official titles.**

Employees are prohibited from using their official titles in conducting private business or participation in private or public group activities not concerned with official duties. Use is strictly limited to those occasions and circumstances where representation is official.

**§ 700.555 Notary services.**

An employee may not charge a fee for performing notarial services as part of his or her job duties (EO 977 Nov. 24, 1908).

**§ 700.557 Political activity.**

(a) Regulations on the political activity of Federal employees can be found in 5 U.S.C. 73. In general, the law and the rules prohibit using official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or affecting its results, and taking an active part in partisan political management or partisan political campaigns.

(b) Special Government employees of the Commission are subject to the political activity restrictions contained in 5 U.S.C. 73 and 18 U.S.C. 602, 603, 607 and 608 while on an active duty status only.

(c) Pursuant to provisions of the regulations cited, employees may take part in certain local elections. However, Commission employees are restricted from taking an active role in political elections of the Navajo and Hopi tribal governments, even though such elections are not partisan in the usual meaning of the word. With respect to tribal elections, employees may not:

- (1) Run for tribal elective office.

- (2) Organize, direct, nor actively participate in a tribal electoral campaign.

- (3) Solicit or attempt to coerce fellow employees to contribute anything of value to an individual or group engaged in tribal political activity.

- (4) Circulate petitions, posters, or other political materials during working hours or on Commission premises.

- (5) Engage in any other type of tribal political activity which produces a conflict of interest between the employee's job responsibilities and the political activity.

**§ 700.559 Equal opportunity.**

Commission personnel shall scrupulously adhere to the Commission program of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

**§ 700.561 Sexual harassment.**

(a) Sexual harassment is a form of employee misconduct which undermines the integrity of the employment relationship. All employees must be allowed to work in an environment free from unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtures. Sexual harassment is defined by the Office of Personnel Management as "deliberate or repeated unsolicited verbal comments, gestures, or physical contact of a sexual nature which are unwelcome." Sexual harassment does not refer to occasional compliments. It refers to behavior which is not welcome, which is personally offensive and debilitates morale, interfering with the work effectiveness of its victims and their co-workers.

(b) Sexual harassment is a prohibited personnel practice when it results in discrimination for or against an employee on the basis of conduct not related to performance.

For example:

- If submission to sexual advances is a condition of employment, whether expressed in explicit or implicit terms;
- If employment decisions, such as promotion, training, salary increases, rewards, etc., are based on an employee's submission to or rejection of sexual advances;
- If the sexual conduct substantially interferes with an affected person's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.