



JCOPE Ethics Seminar FAQ's for Agency Ethics Officers

Executive Law §94(10)(c) requires that State officials attend ethics training once every three years after completing the Comprehensive Ethics Training Course ("CETC"). Pursuant to Executive Law §94(10)(c) the CETC, which is continuously updated to reflect any changes in the law, satisfies the ethics training requirement. Executive Law 94(10)(c) also requires the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics ("JCOPE") to develop and administer a 90 minute ethics seminar for individuals who have previously completed the CETC. JCOPE is in the process of developing the ethics seminar and anticipates presenting it in the summer of 2016. Below are some frequently asked questions about this training requirement.

1. Why are FDS Filers required to take additional ethics training?

Executive Law §94(10)(c) requires that individuals who have previously completed the CETC attend refresher training at least once every three years. The CETC and the Ethics Seminar both satisfy this requirement.

2. Who must take ethics training in 2016?

Any active, non-exempt FDS Filer who took the CETC in 2013 is required to take the ethics training three years from the date they initially took the CETC, i.e. in 2016.

3. How do I know which of my agency FDS Filers require training in 2016?

Please refer to your agency ethics training compliance report. If you need a copy, please e-mail us at education@jcope.ny.gov.

4. When training my FDS filers, how do I know if I have the most recent copy of the CETC?

The CETC dated September 10, 2015 is the most up-to-date version. If you require this version, please e-mail us at education@jcope.ny.gov for a copy.

5. Does the CETC satisfy the Ethics Seminar update?

Yes. According to Executive Law §94(10)(c), FDS filers may complete a subsequent CETC in lieu of attending an ethics seminar. Agency Ethics Officers and training designees should continue to offer CETC training to both new FDS Filers and Filers who have taken the CETC in 2013 and must repeat ethics training in 2016.

6. If the CETC was taken by a state employed attorney who received CLE credit from JCOPE, are they eligible to receive CLE credit from JCOPE again?

No. According to the CLE Board, CLE credit may only be offered once for the same

course.

7. Will the Ethics Seminar be available for CLE Credit?

Yes, we anticipate having the Ethics Seminar available for CLE credit.

8. Should we wait to enroll our agency attorneys in the Ethics Seminar so they may receive CLE credit from JCOPE?

No. Space is limited, and we will not be able to accommodate all who request training with JCOPE.

9. When does JCOPE anticipate releasing training dates for the Ethics Seminar?

Summer 2016

10. Will Ethics officers and training designees be given the materials to present the Ethics Seminar?

No. Initially, only JCOPE will present the Ethics seminar (see question 8 above).

11. Will the Ethics Seminar be available via video conference?

Yes. The Ethics Seminar will be conducted live in Albany and made available via video conference to our NYC and Buffalo offices. However, space is extremely limited in our regional offices and is offered on a first come - first serve basis.

12. If a FDS Filer repeated the CETC in 2015, do they need to take training again in 2016?

No. If a FDS Filer repeated the CETC in 2015, they have met their refresher training requirement and do not need to take ethics training again until 2018.

13. How should we record training information for individuals who repeated the CETC in 2015?

Please continue to track training data on your agency ethics training compliance report provided to you by JCOPE. Record subsequent CETC dates in the "IF CETC TAKEN MORE THAN ONCE, ENTER MOST RECENT DATE" column of the compliance report.

If you are having difficulty training all of your FDS Filers contact the JCOPE Education mailbox (education@JCOPE.ny.gov) for guidance.

Questions?

Call our main line at 518.408.3976 and ask to speak to a member of the training unit, or e-mail us at education@jcope.ny.gov.