

# ETHICS REMINDERS

*Just say “No thank you..”*  
to gifts, tips or presents offered by people whom  
you have helped as part of your job.

## Overview

- As a State employee, you must comply with the requirements in the Public Officers Law.
- One of those requirements is that you cannot accept a “gift” from a person when it appears that the gift was intended as a reward for any official action on your part. This prohibition includes tips as well.

**A “gift” for the purposes of the Public Officers Law can be any item or service that is, generally, valued at more than \$15.**

- So, if somebody offers you a tip, a meal, a trip, or cash in a show of appreciation for the job you have done, it is best to politely decline.
- State employees who violate the gift ban provisions are subject to fines of up to \$40,000 and the value of the gift.



### **Remember:**

The Joint Commission on Public Ethics periodically releases Ethics Reminders. Each reminder is a brief and easy to understand synopsis of the laws and rules under the Commission’s jurisdiction. Ethics Reminders are issued to assist those subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction in understanding and complying with their obligations under the law.