

ETHICS REMINDERS

The deadline for filing the annual Financial Disclosure Statement is right around the corner

If you are a State officer or employee who files a Financial Disclosure Statement (“FDS”), don’t put away the financial information that you referenced when filling out your income tax returns. This information may be helpful in completing your FDS. JCOPE will send out filing notices in mid-April; here’s what you need to know:

- **Who has to file an FDS by Monday, May 17th?**
 - State officers and employees (except for those deemed “Academic Filers” by either SUNY or CUNY) who, **in 2020**, earned more than **\$101,379**—they are known as a **Threshold Filer**.
 - State officers and employees (except for SUNY/CUNY “Academic Filers”) designated by their agency as a **Policymaker**.
Note: Each agency—**not JCOPE**—decides who a Policymaker is. Questions about policymaker designations should be directed to your agency’s ethics officer.
- If you **need additional time to file** the FDS, you can apply for an extension of the filing deadline, based on justifiable cause or undue hardship.
- If there is some **information you don’t want released to the public**, you may request a redaction—shielding certain information from public disclosure—regarding certain information about you, a spouse or unemancipated child, or professional client.
- If you **don’t think you should have to file an FDS in the first place**, and you are a threshold filer (not a Policymaker), you may apply to be exempted or excused from the FDS filing requirement. Alternatively, any agency or employee union may apply to have **all employees in a particular job title** exempted from having to file an FDS. JCOPE will evaluate each application to determine whether the public interest does not require disclosure AND your duties do not involve certain activities specified in the law.
- Subject to any redactions, all FDS reports are available from JCOPE for public inspection and copying.

Call: 1-800-87-ETHICS (800-873-8442)

OR

Email: legal@jcope.ny.gov

Press “2” for Attorney of the Day

Violating Public Officers Law § 73-a can result in a maximum fine of \$40,000 and is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor. Violating Public Officers Law § 74 can result in a maximum fine of \$10,000 and the value of any gift, compensation, or benefit received in connection with that violation, and is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor.



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

Have Questions? Contact us by calling 1-800-87-ETHICS (3-8442) or by email at legal@jcope.ny.gov.
All communications with JCOPE are confidential.