Training?
PRIMITIVE ROAD NO WARNING SIGNS
Homeless man under house arrest

SCRANTON — A homeless man who witnesses a robbery was jailed and placed in a house arrest program after he contacted authorities. He was later transferred to a state institution.

Mary Catherine Rogers, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, called the man’s treatment “improper,” and said she believed he was jailed and put on house arrest mainly because he was a history of being homeless.

“They would have done this if he weren’t homeless,” she said. “We’re prejudiced. He can’t make bail and always be a last resort.”

Prosecutors presented evidence showing that the man was a material witness who might fail to appear when required. Judge Michael Biondolli signed the order, setting the man’s bail at $15,000.

After testifying at the man’s hearing, the officer who witnessed the incident said he was instructed to arrest the man and put him in confinement. The man was held for two weeks without hearing anything about it. Biondolli said, “As far as the state is concerned, he’s being treated like a criminal.”

Handy Bann of Scranton was placed in a house arrest program after he witnessed the July 6 murder of James R. Leeser.
TOUCHING WIRES CAUSES INSTANT DEATH

$200 FINE

Newcastle Tramway Authority
Ethics Law? Why?
Public Contracts
Post-Employment
Conflicts of Interest

ORC 102.03(D)
County employee inspects home day care center owned by her sister
County Investigator investigating his/her private employer on behalf of public agency
County employee oversees a landscaping contract for a public park. The landscaping work is conducted by the company he works for part-time.
Seeking a job from company you regulate on behalf of public agency
Public official approves re-zoning request to allow her spouse to open a new restaurant.
Danger, Will Robinson!
Recuse/Abstain
Abstaining/Recusal

- Voting
- Deciding
- Discussing
- Deliberating

- Recommending
- Reviewing
- Inspecting
- Investigating
- Any Other Action
Representation

- Cannot receive compensation to represent someone before own public agency

- Even if public official or employee recuses self from the matter at the agency
Yes or No?

A county health department inspector can inspect the tattoo facility where her son works if he receives no personal benefit.
A county commissioner may vote on a budget proposal that includes funding for road construction – even though his own neighborhood could be repaved as a result.
YES
A member of a county board, who is also an architect, must abstain from the board’s consideration of a matter affecting a client of the firm he works for, even if he was not assigned to that client.
Gifts!
Conflicts of Interest

ORC 102.03(E)
Substantial

Improper
Improper
“Improper” Source

Those who:
- are doing/seeking to do business with public officials and employees
- are regulated by government
- have specific interests before agency
Substantial
“Nominal” or “De Minimis”
Substantial
Substantial

Improper
?
While attending a conference, you can attend a Philadelphia Eagles game - paid for by a company regulated by your county.
At that same conference, you win a door prize!

The prize is this tablet that was donated by a vendor that has a booth at the conference.

The drawing was random and each attendee’s name was included in the drawing.

Can you take it home?
A vendor to your county has an extra ticket to a traveling Broadway musical and offers it to you.

Should you refuse the ticket?
YES
Public Contracts
ORC 2921.42(A)(3)

Profiting from the approval of a contract
Approved grant money used to hire board member?
ORC 2921.42(A)(1)

Authorization or use of authority for official, family member or business associate
You authorize an IT contract between your county and the IT company owned by your brother.
ORC 2921.42(A)(4)

Having an interest in profits/benefits of public contract with “connected” agency
Public Contract Exception

• Four-Part Exception:
  – Necessary supplies/services
  – Supplies unobtainable elsewhere for the same or lower cost or “continuous course of dealing”
  – Preferential or same treatment as other customers
  – Arm’s length transaction
Your county government building needs a new roof.

Your son owns a roofing company.

Can he get the contract?
YES
You?
Recuse! Abstain! Stay away!
You are a county commissioner and own a t-shirts printing business.

Can you sell shirts to your county?
Hiring Application Occupation Resume
Nepotism
Bad Idea!
Post-Employment
ORC 102.03(A)
aka...
Revolving Door
Post Employment

- Restricted time period?
- A matter?
- Personal participation?
- Representation?
  - Communication
    - Formal or informal
    - Written or oral
  - Received by public sector
How long?
Confidentiality:
R.C. 102.03 (B)
Ohio Ethics Commission

(614) 466-7090

www.ethics.ohio.gov