

THE NATURE FOUNDATION OF WILL COUNTY CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

SECTION 1. PURPOSE:

The Nature Foundation of Will County (FOUNDATION) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Maintenance of its tax-exempt status is important both for its continued financial stability and for public support. Therefore, the IRS as well as state regulatory and tax officials view the operations of the FOUNDATION as a public trust, which is subject to scrutiny by and accountable to such governmental authorities as well as to members of the public.

Consequently, there exists between the FOUNDATION and its board, officers, and management employees and the public a fiduciary duty, which carries with it a broad and unbending duty of loyalty and fidelity. The board, officers, and management employees have the responsibility of administering the affairs of the FOUNDATION honestly and prudently, and of exercising their best care, skill, and judgment for the sole benefit of the FOUNDATION.

Those persons shall exercise the utmost good faith in all transactions involved in their duties, and they shall not use their positions with the FOUNDATION or knowledge gained therefrom for their personal benefit. The interests of the organization must be the first priority in all decisions and actions.

SECTION 2. PERSONS CONCERNED:

This statement is directed not only to directors and officers, but to all employees who can influence the actions of the FOUNDATION. For example, this would include all who make purchasing decisions, all persons who might be described as "management personnel," and anyone who has proprietary information concerning the FOUNDATION.

SECTION 3. AREAS IN WHICH CONFLICT MAY ARISE:

Conflicts of interest may arise in the relations of directors, officers, and management employees with any of the following third parties:

1. Persons and firms supplying goods and services to the FOUNDATION.
2. Persons and firms from whom the FOUNDATION leases property and equipment.
3. Persons and firms with whom the FOUNDATION is dealing or planning to deal in connection with the gift, purchase or sale of real estate, securities, or other property.
4. Competing or affinity organizations.
5. Donors and others supporting the FOUNDATION.
6. Agencies, organizations, and associations which affect the operations of the FOUNDATION.
7. Family members, Foundation, and other employees.

SECTION 4. NATURE OF CONFLICTING INTEREST:

A conflicting interest may be defined as an interest, direct or indirect, with any persons or firms mentioned in Section 3. Such an interest might arise through:

1. Owning stock or holding debt or other proprietary interests in any third party dealing with the FOUNDATION.
2. Holding office, serving on the board, participating in management, or being otherwise employed (or formerly employed) with any third party dealing with the FOUNDATION.
3. Receiving remuneration for services with respect to individual transactions involving the FOUNDATION.
4. Using the FOUNDATION' time, personnel, equipment, supplies, or good will for other than the FOUNDATION-approved activities, programs, and purposes.
5. Receiving personal gifts or loans from third parties dealing or competing with the FOUNDATION. Receipt of any gift is disapproved except gifts of a value less than \$50, which could not be refused without discourtesy. No personal gift of money should ever be accepted.

SECTION 5. INTERPRETATION OF THIS STATEMENT OF POLICY:

The areas of conflicting interest listed in Section 3, and the relations in those areas which may give rise to conflict, as listed in Section 4, are not exhaustive. Conflicts might arise in other areas or through other relations. It is assumed that the directors, officers, and management employees will recognize such areas and relation by analogy.

The fact that one of the interests described in Section 4 exists does not necessarily mean that a conflict exists, or that the conflict, if it exists, is material enough to be of practical importance, or if material, that upon full disclosure of all relevant facts and circumstances it is necessarily adverse to the interests of the FOUNDATION.

However, it is the policy of the board that the existence of any of the interests described in Section 4 shall be disclosed before any transaction is consummated. It shall be the continuing responsibility of the board, officers, and management employees to scrutinize their transactions and outside business interests and relationships for potential conflicts and to immediately make such disclosures.

SECTION 6. DISCLOSURE POLICY AND PROCEDURE:

Transactions with parties with whom a conflicting interest exists may be undertaken only if all of the following are observed:

1. The conflicting interest is fully disclosed;
2. The person with the conflict of interest is excluded from the discussion and approval of such transaction;
3. A competitive bid or comparable valuation exists; and
4. The board has determined that the transaction is in the best interest of the organization.

The disclosure of any conflict described here in by anyone described in Section 2 shall be made to the Chair or Vice Chair. The board shall determine whether a conflict exists and if a conflict does exist, whether the transaction in question is in the best interest of the organization. The decision of the board on these matters will rest in their sole discretion, and their concern must be the welfare of the FOUNDATION and the advancement of its purpose.

SECTION 7: CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

New directors, officers and management employees must complete and sign a conflict of interest disclosure statement. Additionally, each board member, officer and management employee must disclose conflicts of interest annually.

Approved June 25, 2014
Amended January 22, 2020

**THE NATURE FOUNDATION OF WILL COUNTY
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Preliminary note: In order to be more comprehensive, this statement of disclosure and questionnaire also requires you to provide information with respect to certain parties that are related to you. These persons are termed “affiliated persons” and include the following:

- a. Your spouse, domestic partner, child, mother, father, brother or sister;
- b. Any corporation or organization of which you are a board member, an officer, a partner, participate in management or are employed by, or are, directly or indirectly, a debt holder or the beneficial owner of any class of equity securities; and
- c. Any trust or other estate in which you have a substantial beneficial interest or as to which you serve as a trustee or in a similar capacity.

1. NAME OF EMPLOYEE OR BOARD MEMBER: (Please print)

2. CAPACITY:

_____ Board of Directors

_____ Executive Committee

_____ Officer

_____ Committee Member

_____ Staff (position): _____

3. Have you or any of your affiliated persons provided services or property to the Foundation in the past year?

_____ YES _____ NO

If yes, please describe the nature of the services or property and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

4. Have you or any of your affiliated persons purchased services or property from the Foundation in the past year?

_____ YES _____ NO

If yes, please describe the purchased services or property and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

5. Please indicate whether you or any of your affiliated persons had any direct or indirect interest in any business transaction(s) in the past year to which the Foundation was or is a party?
 YES NO

If yes, describe the transaction(s) and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

6. Were you or any of your affiliated persons indebted to pay money to the Foundation at any time in the past year (other than travel advances or the like)?
 YES NO

If yes, please describe the indebtedness and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

7. In the past year, did you or any of your affiliated persons receive, or become entitled to receive, directly or indirectly, any personal benefits from the Foundation or as a result of your relationship with the Foundation, that in the aggregate could be valued in excess of \$1,000, that were not or will not be compensation directly related to your duties to _____?
 YES NO

If yes, please describe the benefit(s) and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

8. Are you or any of your affiliated persons a party to or have an interest in any pending legal proceedings involving the Foundation?
 YES NO

If yes, please describe the proceeding(s) and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

9. Are you aware of any other events, transactions, arrangements or other situations that have occurred or may occur in the future that you believe should be examined by the Foundation's board in accordance with the terms and intent of Foundation's conflict of interest policy?
 YES NO

If yes, please describe the situation(s) and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

I HEREBY CONFIRM that I have read and understand the Foundation's conflict of interest policy and that my responses to the above questions are complete and correct to the best of my information and belief. I agree that if I become aware of any information that might indicate that this disclosure is inaccurate or that I have not complied with this policy, I will notify the Executive Director, Chair, or Vice Chair immediately.

Signature

Date