

U.S. Financial Disclosure System in the Executive Branch: Presidential Appointees & Ethics Agreements



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Overview of Executive Branch Financial Disclosure System



- Ethics in Government Act of 1978 established public financial disclosure system
- Designed primarily to prevent conflicts of interest, not to detect illicit enrichment

For additional details, please refer to conference room paper *CAC/COSP/WG.4/2012/CRP.2*

Financial Disclosure Reporting Categories



- Assets
- Income – both earned and investment
- Liabilities
- Gifts and reimbursements
- Purchases, sales, and exchanges of assets
- Positions held outside of government
- Continuing arrangements with former or current employers or agreement for future employment
- Major clients (first time filers)

Presidential Appointee Financial Disclosure Process



1. Prospective Appointee Submits a Financial Disclosure Form
2. Technical Review
3. Conflicts Review

Presidential Appointee Financial Disclosure Process (continued)



4. Ethics Agreement

- Sell/dispose of specific assets
- Resign from specific positions
- Recuse from specific matters
- Seek a specifically-defined waiver
- Voluntarily create a blind trust

Presidential Appointee Financial Disclosure Process (continued)



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5. Financial Disclosure and Ethics Agreement Sent to the Senate
 6. Monitoring Compliance with the Ethics Agreement

Value of this Process to the Executive Branch Ethics Program



- Personal understanding of how the conflicts of interest requirements will affect the appointee
- Personal introduction to the agency ethics official and to the existence of the ethics program
- Continued support from the leadership
- Public trust



Additional information and links to resources
can found in **CAC/COSP/WG.4/2012/CRP.2**

http://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/working_group4/2012-August-27-29/V1255580e.pdf