

## Resources on Pandemic-Related Ethics Issues (Analyzing Conflicts of Interest and Identifying Particular Matters)

This is the second in a series of resource compilations that address ethics issues agencies may face when responding to COVID-19 and/or managing the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

COVID-19 and the government's response to it may create heightened risks of unidentified conflicts of interest for employees due to rapidly shifting work assignments, new interactions with private entities, and unanticipated operational challenges. Provided below are some of the most useful resources related to analyzing conflicts of interest and identifying particular matters.

### OGE Advisories:

- **Analyzing Conflicts of Interest.**  
<https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGE.nsf/Financial%20Conflicts%20of%20Interest/931A1B0819F5E884852582200075ECC8?opendocument>
- **06x7: Ethics and Working with Contractors — Questions and Answers.** This advisory provides guidance on a variety of ethics issues that commonly arise in a procurement context, such as seeking employment, post-employment, financial conflicts of interest, outside employment, gifts, and misuse of position.  
[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/3CDBC6B4BC0F013F85257E96005FBE7C/\\$FILE/06x7.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/3CDBC6B4BC0F013F85257E96005FBE7C/$FILE/06x7.pdf?open)
- **06x8: Particular Matters for Purposes of 18 U.S.C. § 208.** This advisory provides guidance that preliminary, informal discussions about possible changes to industry-specific standards are particular matters for purposes of 18 U.S.C. § 208. [https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/37EC2F518ACCAAAA85257E96005FBE7D/\\$FILE/06x8.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/37EC2F518ACCAAAA85257E96005FBE7D/$FILE/06x8.pdf?open)
- **06x9: "Particular Matter Involving Specific Parties," "Particular Matter," and "Matter".** This advisory discusses the meaning of and the distinctions among the terms "particular matter involving specific parties," "particular matter," and "matter" as used in the criminal conflict of interest statutes and regulations.  
[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/624E14B0D710694B85257E96005FBE7E/\\$FILE/06x9.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/624E14B0D710694B85257E96005FBE7E/$FILE/06x9.pdf?open)
- **DO-07-006: Waivers under 18 U.S.C. §§ 208(b)(1) and (b)(3).** This memorandum provides guidance on issues that Designated Agency Ethics Officials should consider when deciding whether to grant a waiver under 18 U.S.C. §§ 208(b)(1) or (b)(3).  
[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/328CE4B5A300EAEB85257E96005FBDE5/\\$FILE/do-07-006.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/328CE4B5A300EAEB85257E96005FBDE5/$FILE/do-07-006.pdf?open)

## OGE Classes and Training Materials

- **Making Sense of Particular Matters:** This distance learning event provides basic guidance on how to identify various types of particular matters. The presentation also covers the various criminal conflict of interest statutes and Standards of Conduct provisions that address “particular matters” and related terminology, and provide examples of how the analysis has been done in real cases.  
<https://extapps2.oge.gov/Training/OGETraining.nsf/OGECourse.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=EA815D87E644D14A852581F000536046>
- **When Technical Compliance Isn’t Enough: Appearances Matter!** This session from the 2020 Summit looks at how a series of unfortunate actions by individuals in connection with a high profile procurement resulted in years of media and congressional inquiries, investigations, litigation, and delays, even where no actual violations of law or regulation took place. (Slides Only.)  
<https://extapps2.oge.gov/Training/OGETraining.nsf/OGECourse.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=B1D687F8B85BFE5D8525851400602AC7>