

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST 107***Effective Date: 02/01/2016*

Employees must avoid activities or relationships that conflict with Cass County's interests or adversely affect our reputation. No policy can describe every situation that may constitute a conflict of interest. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide general direction so that you can seek further clarification on issues related to conflicts of interest. Contact the Administrator if you have any questions about conflicts of interest.

A conflict of interest can generally be described as a situation in which your loyalty is, or may appear to be, divided between self-interest or the interests of a third-party and the interests of Cass County. The types of activities and relationships you must avoid include, but are not limited to:

- Accepting, agreeing to accept, or soliciting money or other tangible or intangible benefit in exchange for favorable decisions or actions in the performance of your job or that might appear to influence your decision-making or professional conduct;
- Accepting employment or compensation or engaging in any business or professional activity that might require disclosure of confidential information or trade secrets;
- Accepting employment or compensation that could reasonably be expected to impair your independent judgment in the performance of your duties;
- Accepting a kickback, bribe, substantial gift, or special consideration as a result of any transaction or business dealings involving Cass County;
- Giving preferential treatment in business dealings to any person or company in which you, a relative or friend has a significant ownership interest or relationship.

This policy does not apply to elected officials seeking election contributions. Employees in the Social Service department are also subject to an additional policy based on guidelines from the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

You must disclose actual or potential conflicts or any relationships that may create the appearance of a conflict of interest to your supervisor as soon as you become aware of them so that safeguards can be established to protect all parties. Failure to make required disclosures or resolve conflicts of interest satisfactorily can result in discipline up to and including termination of employment.