

VT Code of Ethics: Gifts



The Code of Ethics prohibits State of Vermont public servants from soliciting or accepting gifts.

What is a gift? A gift is anything you didn't pay full value for.

Can I ever accept a gift?

Yes, you can accept a gift if it meets one of the below [3 V.S.A. § 1203g](#) gift exceptions.

The gift is of "de minimis" value.

- If a gift is valued at less than \$50 per occasion, and less than \$150 per year per source, you can most likely accept it.

Gifts related to your official duties.

- **Admission fees/tickets** to an event where you are participating in your official capacity;
- **A gift to the State**, for official, not personal, use;
- **Printed or recorded material** for use in your State duties;
- **Free or reduced cost training or education** that is in the best interest of your agency.

Gifts of food or beverage, if:

- The food/beverage is **incidental to a legitimate state function**, or;
- The food/beverage is **served at a charitable, civic, political, or cultural event** you attend in your official capacity, or;
- The food/beverage is valued at **\$100 or less per year, per source** and the person paying for the food/beverage is there with you.

Gifts based on a personal or employment relationship.

- An **inheritance**;
- **Personal gifts** from family or bona fide friends;
- Gifts **between public servants**, if normal and customary (such as holiday gifts);
- Gifts **from a supervisor to a supervisee** must be valued at less than \$100 per occasion, and less than \$200 per year.
- Gifts **from an outside employer** (if typically given to other employees).

Gifts available to the general public or a defined subset of the population.

- **Rebates, discounts, and promotions** that are offered to everyone;
- **Loans** made at a commercially reasonable rate, made on terms not more favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;
- **Ceremonial Awards**, such as a plaque, valued at less than \$100.

*** If a gift does not meet one of the above exceptions, it is likely not a legally permissible gift ***

**Not sure what to do?
CONTACT THE ETHICS
COMMISSION FOR ADVICE**

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