

Child Inc.

Conflict of Interest Policy

In the course of business, situations may arise in which an Organization decision maker has a conflict of interest, or in which the process of making a decision may create an appearance of a conflict of interest.

All directors and employees have an obligation to:

1. Avoid conflicts of interest, or the appearance of conflicts, between their personal interests and those of the Organization in dealing with outside entities or individuals,
2. Disclose real and apparent conflicts of interest to the Board of Directors, and
3. Refrain from participation in any decisions on matters that involve a real conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict.

What Constitutes a Conflict of Interest?

The persons covered under this policy shall hereinafter be referred to as “interested persons.” Interested persons include all members of the Board of Directors and all employees, as well as persons with the following relationships to directors or employees:

1. Spouses or domestic partners
2. Brothers and sisters
3. Parents, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren
4. Spouses of individuals listed in 2 and 3
5. Corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies (LLCs), and other forms of businesses in which an employee or director, either individually or in combination with individuals listed in 1, 2, 3, or 4, collectively possess a [20%] or more ownership or beneficial interest

Conflicts of interest arise when the interests of an interested party may be seen as competing with those of the Organization. Conflicts of interest may be financial (where an interested party benefits financially directly or indirectly) or non-financial (e.g., seeking preferential treatment, using confidential information).

Examples of conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, situations in which a director or employee:

1. Negotiates or approves a contract, purchase, or lease on behalf of the Organization and has a direct or indirect interest in, or receives personal benefit from, the entity or individual providing the goods or services.
2. Negotiates or approves a contract, sale, or lease on behalf of the Organization and has a direct or indirect interest in, or receives personal benefit from, the entity or individual receiving the goods or services.
3. Employs or approves the employment of, or supervises a person who is an immediate family member of the director or employee.
4. Sells products or services in competition with the Organization.
5. Uses the Organization’s facilities, other assets, employees, or other resources for personal gain.
6. Receives a substantial gift from a contractor, if the director or employee is responsible for initiating or approving purchases from that contractor.

Resolution of Conflicts of Interest

All real or apparent conflicts of interest shall be disclosed to the Audit /Finance Committee] and the Executive Director of the Organization. Conflicts shall be resolved as follows:

- The Audit /Finance Committee shall be responsible for making all decisions concerning resolutions of conflicts involving directors, the Executive Director, and other members of senior management.
- The chair of the committee shall be responsible for making all decisions concerning resolutions of conflicts involving Audit /Finance Committee members.
- The chair of the Board shall be responsible for making all decisions concerning resolutions of the conflict involving the chair of the Audit /Finance Committee.
- The Executive Director shall be responsible for making all decisions concerning resolutions of conflicts involving employees below the senior management level, subject to the approval of the Audit /Finance Committee.

An employee or director may appeal the decision that a conflict (or appearance of conflict) exists as follows:

- An appeal must be directed to the chair of the board.
- Appeals must be made within 30 days of the initial determination.
- Resolution of the appeal shall be made by vote of the full Board of Directors.
- Board members who are the subject of the appeal, or who have a conflict of interest with respect to the subject of the appeal, shall abstain from participating in, discussing, or voting on the resolution, unless their discussion is requested by the remaining members of the board.

Disciplinary Action for Violations of This Policy

Failure to comply with the standards contained in this policy will result in disciplinary action that may include termination, referral for criminal prosecution, and reimbursement to the Organization or to the government, for any loss or damage resulting from the violation. As with all matters involving disciplinary action, principles of fairness will apply. Any employee charged with a violation of this policy will be afforded an opportunity to explain her or his actions before disciplinary action is taken.

Disciplinary action will be taken:

1. Against any employee who authorizes or participates directly in actions that are a violation of this policy.
2. Against any employee who has deliberately failed to report a violation or deliberately withheld relevant and material information concerning a violation of this policy.
3. Against any director, manager, or supervisor who attempts to retaliate, directly or indirectly, or encourages others to do so, against any employee who reports a violation of this policy.

A Board member who violates this policy will be removed from the Board.

This certifies I have received and reviewed the Conflict of Interest policy for Child Inc.

Vendor Name

Signed

Printed Name

Date