

Arlington Fire District
Code of Ethics

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Arlington Fire District hereby adopts a Code of Ethics to read as follows:

Section 1. Purpose

Employees of the Arlington Fire District hold their positions to serve and benefit the public, and not for obtaining unwarranted personal or private gain in the exercise and performance of their official powers and duties. The Board of Fire Commissioners recognizes that, in furtherance of this fundamental principle, there is a need for clear and reasonable standards of ethical conduct. This Code of Ethics establishes those standards.

Section 2. Definitions

- a) "Employee" means each paid or volunteer member of the Fire District including, but not limited to, an Officer of the Fire District, each member of the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Treasurer, Bookkeeper, District Secretary, Typist, Personnel Administrator, EMS Director, Chief and Deputy Chief.
- b) "Family member" means a parent, sibling, spouse, child, uncle, aunt, first cousin, or household member of an Employee.
- c) "Fire District" means the Arlington Fire District.
- d) "Interest" means a direct or indirect monetary, financial, or other material benefit, but does not include any benefit arising from the provision or receipt of fire protection or other emergency services generally available to the residents of the Fire District. A person is deemed to have an interest in the contracts of any firm, partnership, or corporation of which he or she is an owner, partner, director, officer, Employee, or stockholder. A member of the Board of Fire Commissioners, who is also a volunteer member of a Fire Company, but not an Officer or Director of such Fire Company, is not deemed to have an interest in the contracts between the Fire District and the Fire Company.

Section 3. Appearance of Impropriety

No Employee of the Fire District shall create an appearance of impropriety, by giving the impression that he or she will exercise or perform his or her official duties on the basis of family, private business, or social relationships, or any consideration other than the welfare of the Fire District.

Section 4. Use of Position for Personal or Private Gain

- a) No Employee of the Fire District may use his or her position to secure unwarranted personal or private gain for himself or herself, or for any other person or any organization. Unwarranted personal or private gain does not include any payment, benefit or opportunity that is available to any of the following groups of people:
 - i. all of the Employees;
 - ii. all of the eligible residents of the Fire District or a duly established zone of the Fire District; or
 - iii. the general public.
- b) No Employee of the Fire District may use or permit the use of Fire District resources for personal or private benefits. Fire District resources include, but are not limited to, use of Fire District personnel, or use of the Fire District's money, equipment, materials, supplies or other property.

- c) Use of District vehicles shall be governed by the “Arlington Fire District Vehicle Use Policy”.

- d) No Employee of the Fire District, and no member of the Fire District, shall cause the Fire District to spend more than is reasonably necessary for transportation, meals or lodging in connection with official travel. District transportation mileage will be reimbursed for mileage at the prevailing IRS mileage reimbursement rate.

Section 5. Disclosure of Interest in Board Action.

Every Employee of the Fire District must disclose the nature of any interest, which any of the following people have, in any matter coming before the Board of Fire Commissioners for action:

- a) the Employee

- b) a family member of the Officer, Employee; or

- c) a family member of the Employee’s spouse.

For purposes of this section, a matter coming before the Board of Fire Commissioners for action means a motion, resolution, or any other issue or question requiring a vote of the Board.

The disclosure required by this section must be in writing and must be made publicly to the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Board of Fire Commissioners must cause the disclosure to be included in the minutes of the meeting at which the disclosure is made. Disclosure is not required with respect to interests in the following actions by the Board of Fire Commissioners:

- a) adoption of the Fire District’s annual budget;

- b) authorization of lawful compensation for services as an Officer or Employee of the Fire District;

- c) authorization of lawful payment or reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred by an Employee in the performance of their official duty; or

- d) authorization of lawful benefits to the volunteer members of the Fire District including, but not limited to, service awards, group life insurance, and benefits under the Volunteer Firefighters Benefit Law.

Section 6. Annual Statement of Financial Disclosure for Calendar Year

The Code of Ethics of the Arlington Fire District requires all elected Commissioners, Personnel Administrator, EMS Director, and all Chief Officers to file this statement prior to January 15 for the proceeding calendar year. Please answer all questions completely. Indicate not applicable (N/A) where appropriate. Attach additional pages if necessary.

Are you requesting a time stamped receipt of the filing of this document?

Yes

No

1) Reporting individual

Name:

Title of Position Held:

Department, Agency, or Committee:

Office Address (Employees Only):

Office Telephone Number and Extension (Employees Only):

2) To the best of your knowledge and belief, do you, or your family member, as defined in Section 2(b) above, have any of the following relationships with the Arlington Fire District?

Yes

No

- Do business with the Arlington Fire District.
- Receive any benefits, payments, or gifts in excess of that allowed, as defined in the Code of Ethics, from any person, firm, company, or organization doing business with the Arlington Fire District.
- Own five (5%) percent or more of stock in a firm doing business with the Arlington Fire District.

Complete questions 3 - 6, only if you checked any "yes" box in Question 2. (Use separate paper if necessary)

3) Identify the following for all boxes checked in Question 2.

- a) The name of the individual
- b) The relationship with the Arlington Fire District
- c) The value of relationship as best can be determined
- d) The dates of the relationship began and ended (or will end)

4) For every individual identified in Question 3, including yourself, identify any gifts, payments, or personal entertainment having an annual cumulative value in excess of \$75.00 directly from:

- a) Any person or entity doing business with Arlington Fire District

- 5) For every individual identified in Question 3, including yourself, identify any agreement or promise of future employment or payment including transfers of anything of a cumulative value in excess of \$100.00 from:
- a) The Arlington Fire District.
 - b) Any person or entity doing business with the Arlington Fire District.
- 6) For every individual identified in Question 3, including yourself, identify any real property which each owns either in or contiguous to the Arlington Fire District.

The identification should include at a minimum the street address, municipality, property size, property use, and acquisition date. Include all property, whether the interest is vested or contingent, where fifty percent (50%) or more of the equitable interest in the property is held by the reporting person or relatives.

*Exclude any primary personal residence not exceeding five (5) acres.

Improper use of the information contained in this statement by any person or entity in violation of privacy or other rights is separately punishable in accordance with law. No interference of unethical or illegal conduct or behavior shall be drawn merely from the lawful compliance with disclosure requirements.

Individual Certification

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that the information on this Statement set forth is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: _____

Signature: _____

Fire District Certification

I, _____ being duly sworn, depose and say that I am District Secretary of the Arlington Fire District and that the information on this Statement set forth is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Name of Organization: ARLINGTON FIRE DISTRICT

Dated: _____

Signature: _____

File the Statement with:

Board of Fire Commissioners
c/o Arlington Fire District
11 Burnett Boulevard
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Section 7. Recusal and abstention

Except as otherwise required by law, no Employee of the Fire District may participate in the discussion or vote on any matter, or exercise or perform any other official powers or duties in connection with, any matter, when any of the following people have an interest in the matter:

- a) the Officer, Employee, or fire department member;
- b) a family member of the Officer, Employee, or fire department member; or
- c) a family member of the spouse of the Officer, Employee, or fire department member.

Section 8. Holding of Investments in Conflict with Official Duties

No Employee of the Fire District may hold the following investments:

- a) personal investments that will be directly affected by the exercise or performance of the person's official powers and duties; or
- b) personal investments that would otherwise impair the person's independence of judgment in the exercise or performance of his or her official powers and duties.

Section 9. Private Employment in Conflict with Official Duties

a) No Employee of the Fire District may accept employment or engage in any business or professional activity which:

- i. impairs the person's independence of judgment in the exercise or performance of his or her official powers and duties;
- ii. is likely to require disclosure of confidential information gained by reason of serving as an Employee; or
- iii. requires representation of a person or organization other than the Fire District in connection with litigation, negotiations, or any other matter to which the Fire District is a party.

b) No Employee of the Fire District may:

- i. represent another person or organization before the Board of Fire Commissioners or any other body or Officer of the Fire District;
- ii. render services to another person or organization in relation to any matter which must come before the Board of Fire Commissioners or any other body or Officer of the Fire District; or
- iii. render services to another person or organization in relation to any matter which is pending before the Board of Fire Commissioners or any other body or Officer of the Fire District.

c) This section does not prohibit an Employee from:

- i. representing themselves, or his or her spouse or minor children before the Board of Fire Commissioners or any other body or Officer of the Fire District;
- ii. asserting a claim against the Fire District on their own behalf, or on behalf of his or her spouse or minor children; or

- iii. performing services pursuant to a lawful and duly authorized contract with the Fire District, provided, that if the consideration payable under the contract exceeds \$1,000, the contract was awarded through competitive bidding or some other competitive process.

Section 10. Future Employment

No Employee shall seek or engage in future employment that would otherwise result in a violation of this Code of Ethics or Article 18 of the General Municipal Law.

Section 11. Confidential Information

No Employee of the Fire District, who acquires confidential information in the course of exercising or performing his or her official powers or duties, may disclose such information unless the disclosure is required in the course of exercising or performing his or her official powers and duties.

Section 12. Gifts

- a) No Employee of the Fire District may directly or indirectly solicit any gift.
- b) No Employee of the Fire District may accept or receive any gift having an aggregate value of seventy-five dollars (\$75) or more when:
 - i. it appears that the gift is intended to influence the Employee, Officer, or fire department member in the exercise or performance of his or her official powers or duties;
 - ii. the gift could reasonably be expected to influence the Employee, Officer, or fire department member in the exercise or performance of his or her official powers or duties; or
 - iii. the gift is intended as a reward for any official action on the part of the Employee, Officer, or fire department member.

For purposes of this section, a “gift” includes anything of value, whether in the form of money, service, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or in any other form. The value of a gift is the gift’s fair market value, determined by the retail cost of the item or a comparable item. The fair market value of a ticket entitling the holder to food, refreshments, entertainment, or any other benefit is the face value of the ticket, or the actual cost to the donor, whichever is greater.

Section 13. Posting and Distribution

- a) The Board of Fire Commissioners must promptly cause a copy of this Code of Ethics, and a copy of any amendment to this Code of Ethics, to be posted publicly and conspicuously in each building under the Fire District’s control.
- b) The failure to post amendment to the Code of Ethics does not affect either the applicability or enforceability of the code or the amendment. The failure of an Employee, Officer, or fire department member to receive a copy of this Code of Ethics or an amendment to the code, or to acknowledge receipt thereof in writing, does not affect either the applicability or enforceability of the code or amendment to the code.

Section 14. Enforcement

Any Employee who violates this Code of Ethics may be fined, suspended, or removed from office, employment, or membership in the Fire District in the manner provided by law. A violation of this code is deemed a misconduct

within the meaning of Section 209-L of the General Municipal Law.

Section 15. Effective date.

This amended Code of Ethics takes effect on 01/06/25.