

Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

SECTION 1. PURPOSE:

Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Maintenance of its tax-exempt status is important for both its continued financial stability and for public support. Therefore, the IRS as well as state regulatory and tax officials view the operations of Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition as a public trust, which is subject to scrutiny by and accountable to such governmental authorities as well as to members of the public.

Consequently, there exists between Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition and its Board of Directors, officers, Steering Committee members, and employees and the public a fiduciary duty, which carries with it a broad and unbending duty of loyalty and fidelity. The Board of Directors, officers, Steering Committee members, and employees have the responsibility of administering the affairs of Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition honestly and prudently, and of exercising their best care, skill, and judgment for the sole benefit of Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition. Those persons shall exercise the utmost good faith in all transactions involved in their duties, and they shall not use their positions with Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition or knowledge gained therefrom for their personal benefit. The interests of the organization must be the first priority in all decisions and actions.

SECTION 2. PERSONS CONCERNED:

This statement is directed not only to Directors, officers, and Steering Committee members, but to all employees and volunteers who can influence the actions of Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition. For example, this would include all who make purchasing decisions, all persons who might be described as “management personnel,” and anyone who has proprietary information concerning Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition.

SECTION 3. AREAS IN WHICH CONFLICT MAY ARISE:

Conflicts of interest may arise in the relations of Directors, officers, Steering Committee members, and employees and with any of the following third parties:

1. Persons and firms supplying goods and services to Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition.
2. Persons and firms from whom Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition leases property and equipment.
3. Persons and firms with whom Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition is dealing or planning to deal in connection with the gift, purchase, or sale of real estate, securities, or other property.

4. Competing or affinity organizations.
5. Donors and others supporting Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition.
6. Agencies, organizations, and associations which affect the operations of Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition.
7. Family members, friends, and other employees.

SECTION 4. NATURE OF CONFLICTING INTEREST:

A conflicting interest may be defined as an interest, direct or indirect, with any persons or firms mentioned in Section 3. Such an interest might arise through:

1. Owning stock or holding debt or other proprietary interests in any third party dealing with Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition.
2. Holding office, serving on the board, participating in management, volunteering for, or being otherwise employed (or formerly employed) with any third party dealing with Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition.
3. Receiving remuneration for services with respect to individual transactions involving Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition.
4. Using Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition's time, personnel, equipment, supplies, or goodwill for other than Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition-approved activities, programs, and purposes.
5. Receiving personal gifts or loans from third parties dealing or competing with Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition. Receipt of any gift is disapproved except gifts of a value less than \$50, which could not be refused without discourtesy. No personal gift of money should ever be accepted.

SECTION 5. INTERPRETATION OF THIS STATEMENT OF POLICY:

The areas of conflicting interest listed in Section 3, and the relations in those areas which may give rise to conflict, as listed in Section 4, are not exhaustive. Conflicts might arise in other areas or through other relations. It is assumed that the Directors, officers, Steering Committee members, and employees will recognize such areas and relation by analogy.

The fact that one of the interests described in Section 4 exists does not necessarily mean that a conflict exists, or that the conflict, if it exists, is material enough to be of practical importance, or if material, that upon full disclosure of all relevant facts and circumstances it is necessarily adverse to the interests of Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition.

However, it is the policy of the Board that the existence of any of the interests described in Section 4 should be disclosed before any transaction is consummated. It shall be the continuing responsibility of the Board, officers, Steering Committee members, and employees to scrutinize their transactions and outside business interests and relationships for potential conflicts and to immediately make such disclosures.

SECTION 6. DISCLOSURE POLICY AND PROCEDURE:

Transactions with parties with whom a conflicting interest exists may be undertaken only if all of the following are observed:

1. The conflicting interest is fully disclosed;
2. The person with the conflict of interest is excluded from the discussion and approval of such transaction;
3. A competitive bid or comparable valuation exists; and
4. The Board of Directors has determined that the transaction is in the best interest of the organization.

Disclosure in the organization should be made to the Board chair, who shall bring the matter to the attention of the full Board. Disclosure involving Directors should also be made to the Board chair (or if she or he is the one with the conflict, then to the Board chair-elect), who shall bring these matters to the full Board.

The Board shall determine whether a conflict exists and, in the case of an existing conflict, whether the contemplated transaction may be authorized as just, fair, and reasonable to Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition. The decision of the Board on these matters will rest in their sole discretion, and their concern must be the welfare of Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition and the advancement of its purpose.