



REMINDER OF GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS TO CLIENT

As an incoming Department of Justice attorney, it is important for you to remember that you are not only a federal government employee but also an attorney representing a client (in most circumstances, the Executive Branch of the United States or the Department), with all the professional responsibilities that entails. Indeed, 28 U.S.C. § 530B mandates that attorneys for the Government comply with applicable State laws and rules, and Federal court rules, governing attorneys. It is therefore important for you to reacquaint yourself with the laws and rules of professional conduct adopted by the jurisdictions in which you are licensed and in which you practice.

For instance, among an attorney's professional obligations is the obligation to protect confidential client information. This obligation is established in state bar rules analogous to Rule 1.6, American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct. As a Department of Justice attorney, you, like any attorney, have an obligation to safeguard information and documents relating to the representation of your client. While you are permitted to make certain disclosures during the course of your work, the disclosures are limited. These limitations primarily result from your obligations under the rules of professional conduct and Executive Branch policies on disclosure of government information, but other laws, rules, and privileges may also apply. Moreover, some disclosures require approval from your component head, United States Attorney, or someone at a higher level within the Department of Justice or Executive Branch, depending on the nature of the information sought to be disclosed. Keep in mind that your duty of confidentiality does not end when you leave the Department.

Your signature below serves as an acknowledgment that you understand your obligation to determine and comply with the laws, rules of professional conduct, Department policies, or other rules that define your obligations to your client in the assignments you take on as a Department of Justice attorney. If you have questions about your obligations under the applicable rules of professional conduct, please contact the Professional Responsibility Officer (PRO) in your office or division or the Professional Responsibility Advisory Office (PRAO). Questions about your obligations arising from laws and regulations defining Executive Branch standards of conduct should be directed to the General Counsel's Office of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA GCO), the Ethics Officer in your office or division, or to the Departmental Ethics Office. Questions about other law, policy, or regulation should be directed to EOUSA GCO or to your component leadership.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

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These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.