

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
ABOUT THE
RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM
Updated 3-1-11

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM?

The Relationship Disclosure Form (form OC CE 2D and form OC CE 2P) is a form created pursuant to the County's Local Code of Ethics, codified at Article XIII of Chapter 2 of the Orange County Code, to ensure that all development-related items and procurement items presented to or filed with the County include information as to the relationship, if any, between the applicant and the County Mayor or any member of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The form will be a part of the backup information for the applicant's item.

WHY ARE THERE TWO RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE FORMS?

Form OC CE 2D is used only for development-related items, and form OC CE 2P is used only for procurement-related items. The applicant needs to complete and file the form that is applicable to his/her case.

WHO NEEDS TO FILE THE RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM?

Form OC CE 2D should be completed and filed by the owner of record, contract purchaser, or authorized agent. Form OC CE 2P should be completed and filed by the bidder, offeror, quoter, or respondent, and, if applicable, their authorized agent. In all cases, the person completing the form must sign the form and warrant that the information provided on the form is true and correct.

WHAT INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE DISCLOSED ON THE RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM?

The relationship disclosure form needs to disclose pertinent background information about the applicant and the relationship, if any, between, on the one hand, the applicant and, if applicable, any person involved with the item, and on the other hand, the Mayor or any member of the BCC.

In particular, the applicant needs to disclose whether any of the following relationships exist: (1) the applicant is a business associate of the Mayor or any member of the BCC; (2) any person involved with the approval of the item has a beneficial interest in the outcome of the matter *and* is a business associate of the Mayor or any member of the BCC; (3) the applicant is a relative of the Mayor or any member of the BCC; or (4) the Mayor or any member of the BCC is an employee of the applicant. (See Section 2-454, Orange County Code.)

HOW ARE THE KEY RELEVANT TERMS DEFINED?

Applicant means, for purposes of a development-related project, the owner, and, if applicable, the contract purchaser or owner's authorized agent. *Applicant* means, for purposes of a procurement item, the bidder, offeror, quoter, respondent, and, if applicable, the authorized agent of the bidder, offeror, quoter, or respondent.

Business associate means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with a public officer, public employee, or candidate as a partner, joint venturer, corporate shareholder where the shares of such corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange, or co-owner of property. (See Section 112.312(4), Florida Statutes, and Section 2-452(b), Orange County Code.)

Employee means any person who receives remuneration from an employer for the performance of any work or service while engaged in any employment under any appointment or contract for hire or apprenticeship, express or implied, oral or written, whether lawfully or unlawfully employed, and includes, but is not limited to, aliens and minors. (See Section 440.02(15), Florida Statutes.)

Relative means an individual who is related to a public officer or employee as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, grandparent, great grandparent, grandchild, great grandchild, step grandparent, step great grandparent, step grandchild, step great grandchild, person who is engaged to be married to the public officer or employee or who otherwise holds himself or herself out as or is generally known as the person whom the public officer or employee intends to marry or with whom the public officer or employee intends to form a household, or any other natural person having the same legal residence as the public officer or employee. (See Section 112.312(21), Florida Statutes.)

DOES THE RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM NEED TO BE UPDATED IF INFORMATION CHANGES?

Yes. It remains a continuing obligation of the applicant to update this form whenever any of the information provided on the initial form changes.

WHERE DO THE RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM AND ANY SUBSEQUENT UPDATES NEED TO BE FILED?

For a development-related item, the Relationship Disclosure Form and any update need to be filed with the County Department or County Division where the applicant filed the application. For a procurement item, the Relationship Disclosure Form and any update need to be filed with the Purchasing and Contracts Division.

WHEN DO THE RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM AND ANY UPDATES NEED TO BE FILED?

In most cases, the initial form needs to be filed when the applicant files the initial development-related project application or initial procurement-related forms. However, with respect to a procurement item, a response to a bid will not be deemed unresponsive if this form is not included in the initial packet submitted to the Purchasing and Contracts Division.

If changes are made after the initial filing, the final, cumulative Relationship Disclosure Form needs to be filed with the appropriate County Department or County Division processing the application not less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled BCC agenda date so that it may be incorporated into the BCC agenda packet. When the matter is a discussion agenda item or is the subject of a public hearing, and an update has not been made at least 7 days prior to BCC meeting date or is not included in the BCC agenda packet, the applicant is obligated to verbally present such update to the BCC when the agenda item is heard or the public hearing is held. When the matter is a consent agenda item and an update has not been made at least 7 days prior to the BCC meeting or the update is not included in the BCC agenda packet, the item will be pulled from the consent agenda to be considered at a future meeting.

WHO WILL REVIEW THE INFORMATION DISCLOSED ON THE RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM AND ANY UPDATES?

The information disclosed on this form and any updates will be a public record as defined by Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and may therefore be inspected by any interested person. Also, the information will be made available to the Mayor and the BCC members. This form and any updates will accompany the information for the applicant's project or item.

However, for development-related items, if an applicant discloses the existence of one or more of the relationships described above and the matter would normally receive final consideration by the Concurrency Review Committee or the Development Review Committee, the matter will be directed to the BCC for final consideration and action following committee review.

CONCLUSION:

We hope you find this FAQ useful to your understanding of the Relationship Disclosure Form. Please be informed that if the event of a conflict or inconsistency between this FAQ and the requirements of the applicable ordinance or law governing relationship disclosures, the ordinance or law controls.

Also, please be informed that the County Attorney's Office is not permitted to render legal advice to an applicant or any other outside party. Accordingly, if the applicant or an outside party has any questions after reading this FAQ, he/she is encouraged to contact his/her own legal counsel.