

# Guide to Texas Ethics Law and Disclosure Law

Newly Elected County Judges and Commissioners  
Seminar  
January 2023

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# Questions? Give us a ring!



# Why are we here?

1

## Conflicts

Who you can and can't do business with.



2

## Nepotism

Who you can and can't hire.



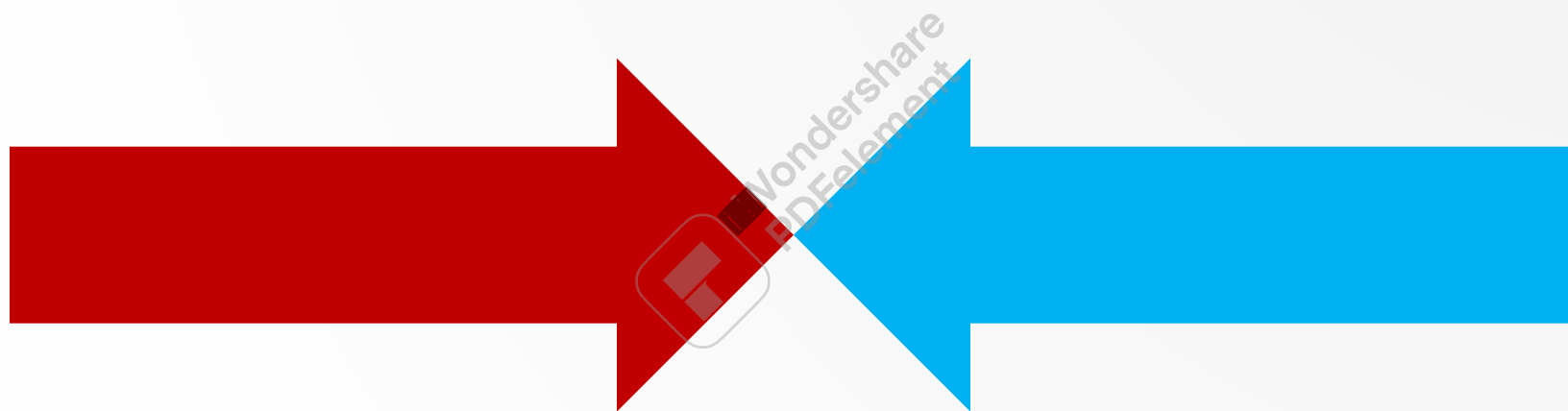
3

## Ethics

Other ways you can get in trouble.



# CONFLICTS – THE BASICS



# WHAT IS A “SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST”?

10%  
voting stock  
or shares

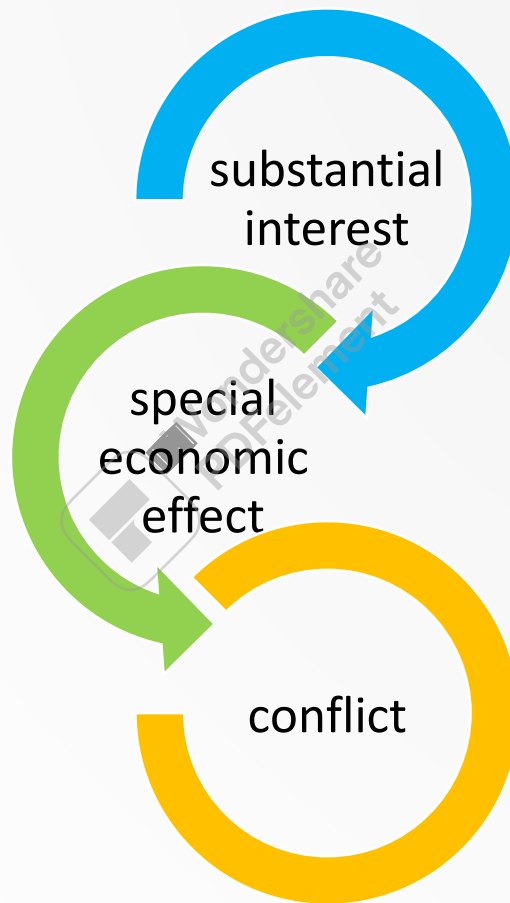
10%  
annual gross  
income

1<sup>st</sup>  
Degree

10%  
or  
\$15000

\$2500  
real property

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST TEST

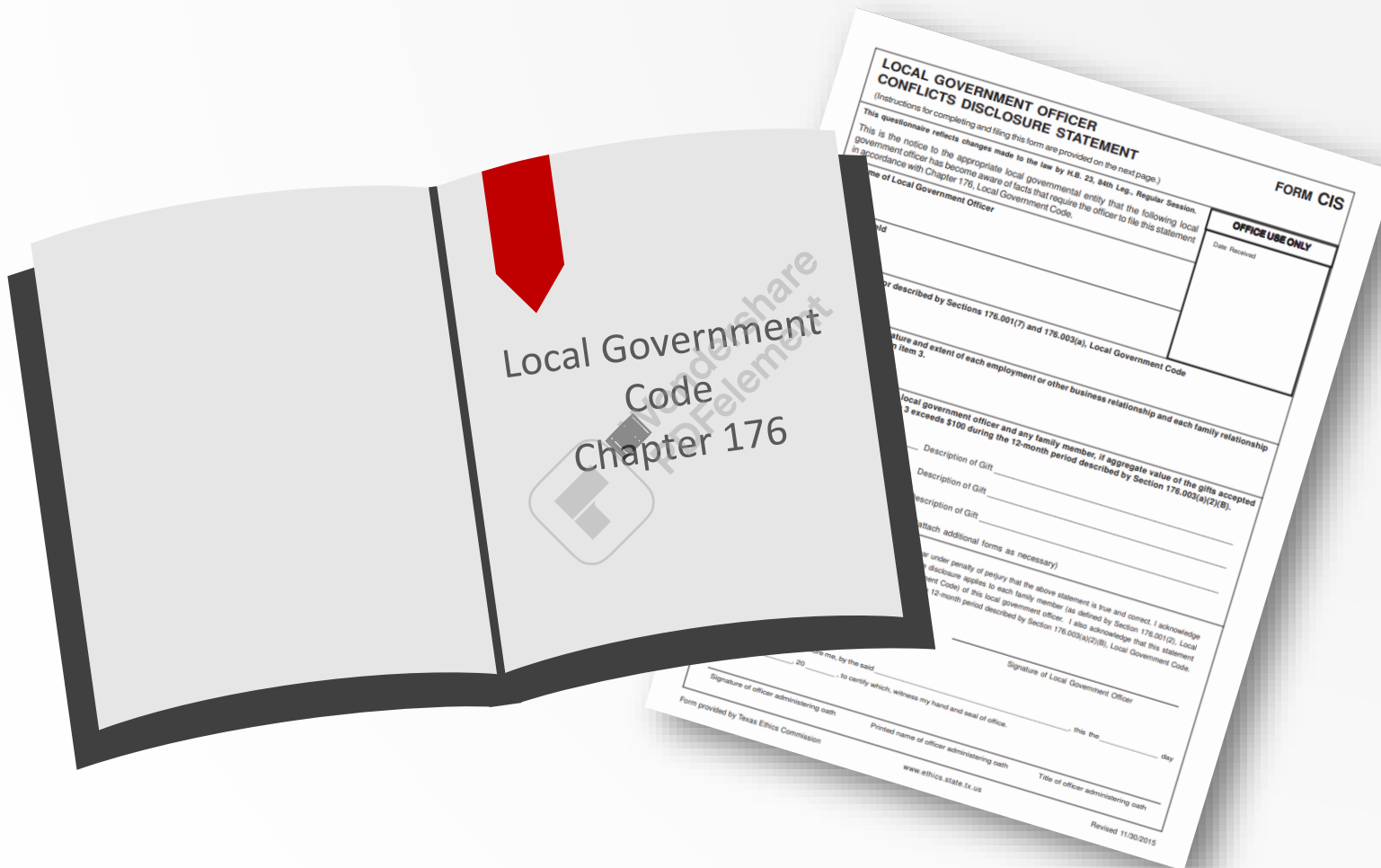


# CONFLICTS & OATH OF OFFICE



*“no direct or indirect interest in contract with the county”*

# CERTAIN BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

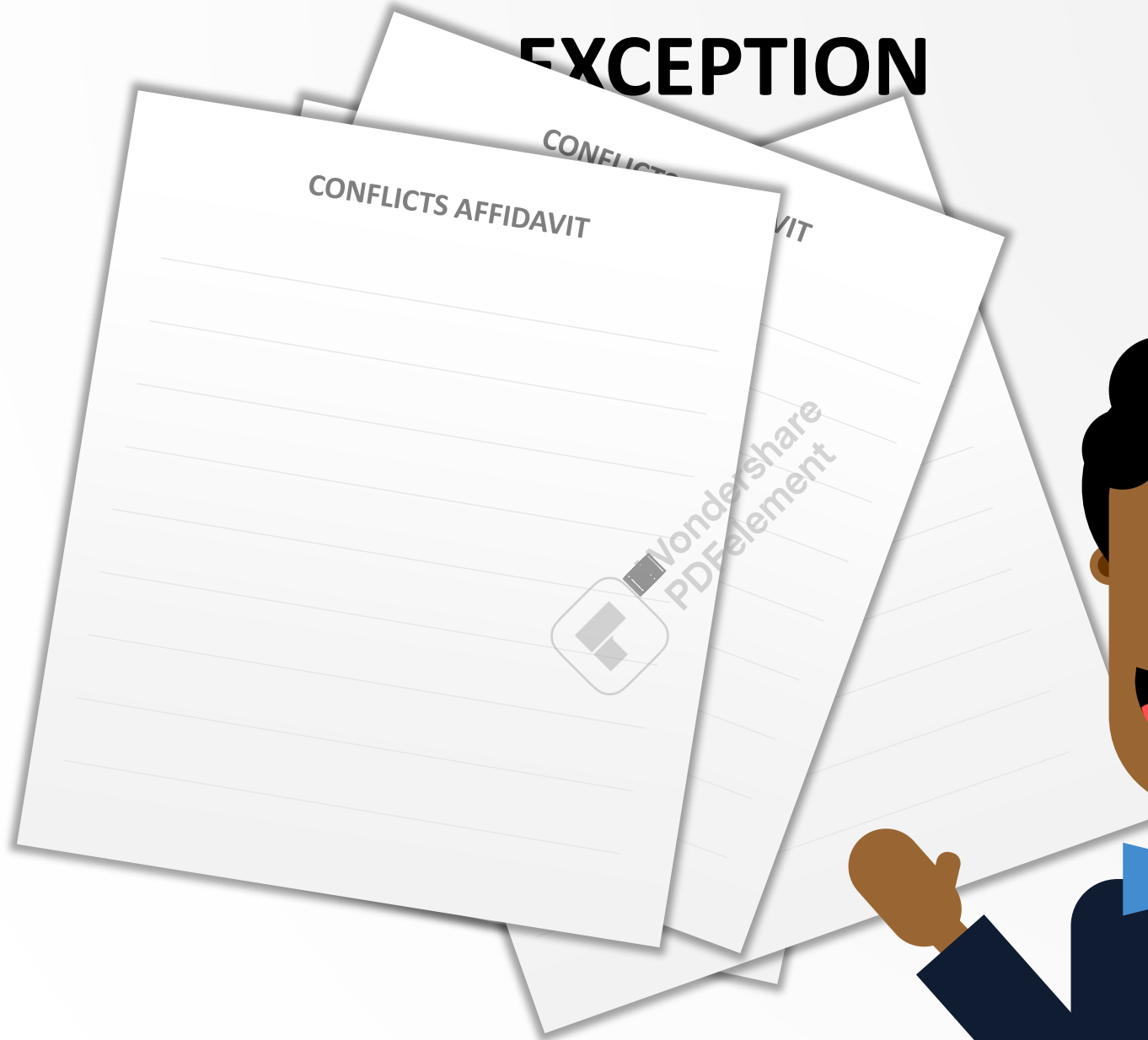




# WHAT IF YOU HAVE A CONFLICT?



# EXCEPTION



# OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

2

## Nepotism

Who you can and  
can't hire.



# NEPOTISM TERMS

consanguinity

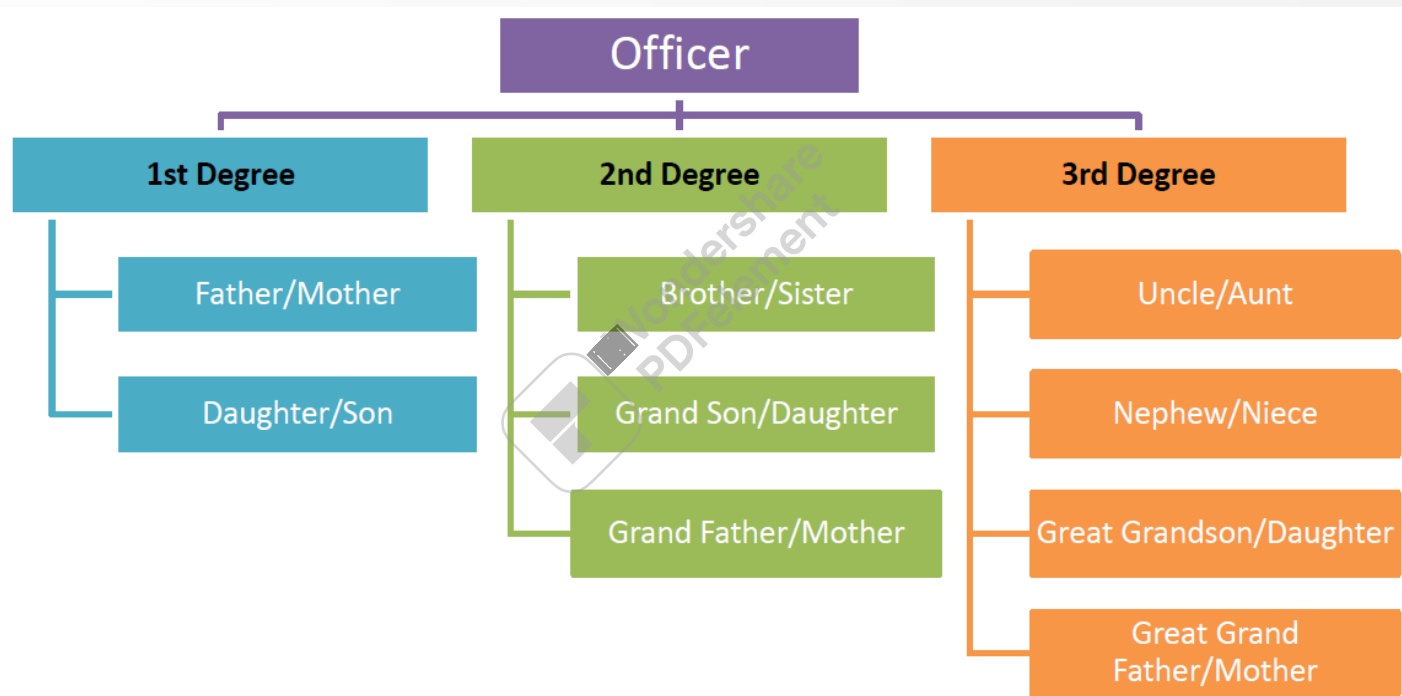


affinity

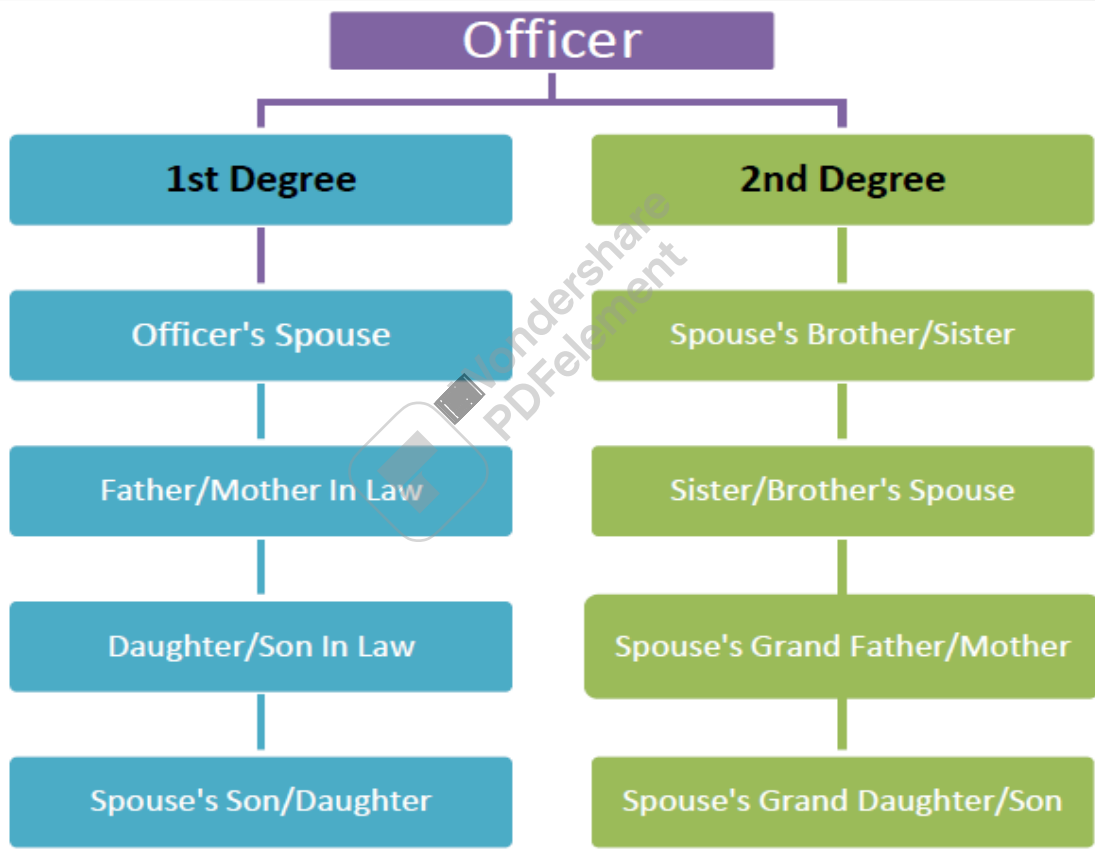


Wondershare  
PDFelement

# CONSANGUINITY (RELATIONSHIP BY BLOOD)



# AFFINITY (RELATIONSHIP BY MARRIAGE)



# EXCEPTIONS

cousins ok

already on the job

employment changes

salary increases





# OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

3

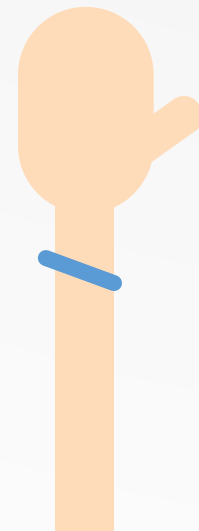
## Ethics

Other ways you  
can get in trouble.

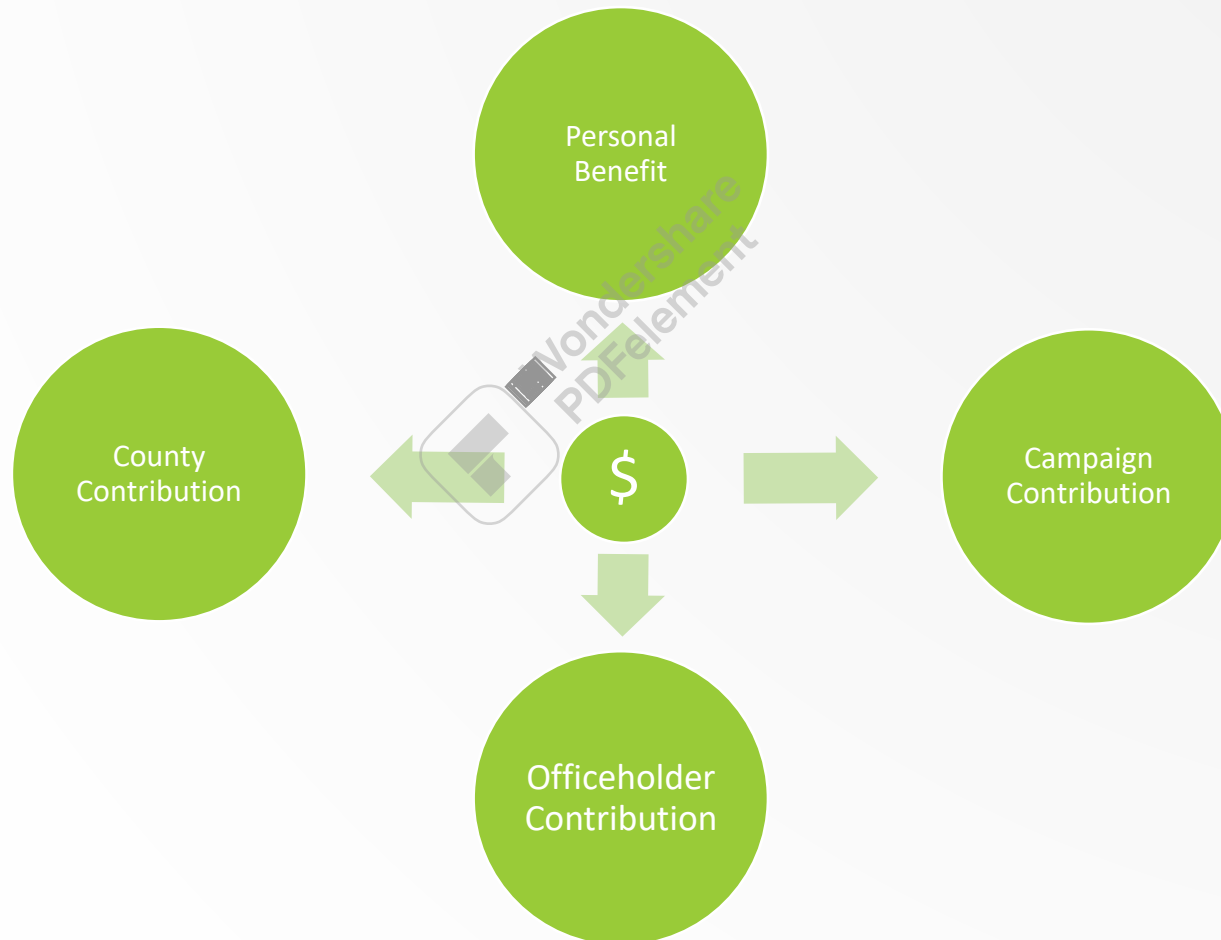


# ETHICS – CHAPTER 36

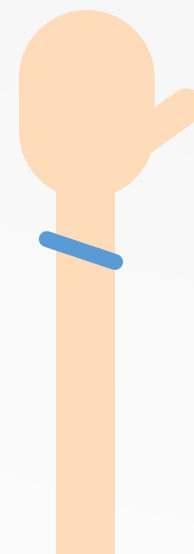
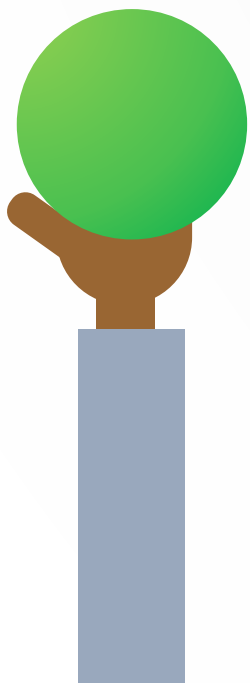
**BENEFIT**



# CHARACTERIZE THE BENEFIT



# CHAPTER 36 – BRIBERY



# CHAPTER 36 – OTHER ISSUES



# PERSONAL BENEFIT – EXCEPTIONS



# TITLE 15 – CONTRIBUTIONS

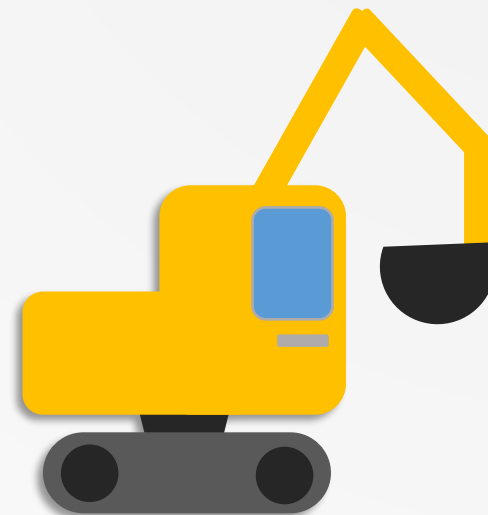
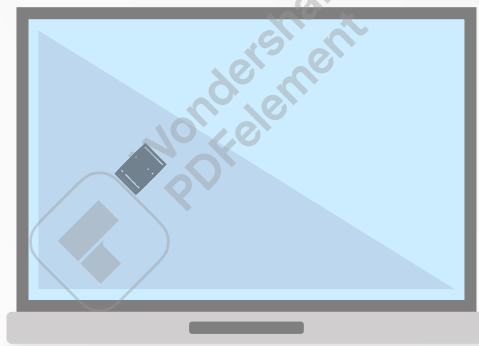
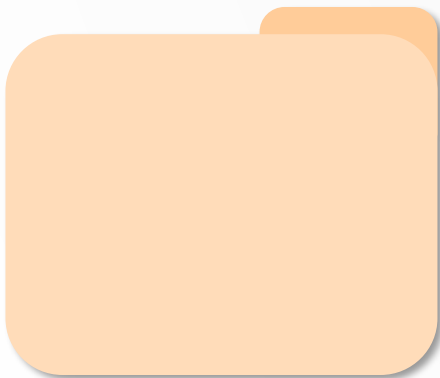




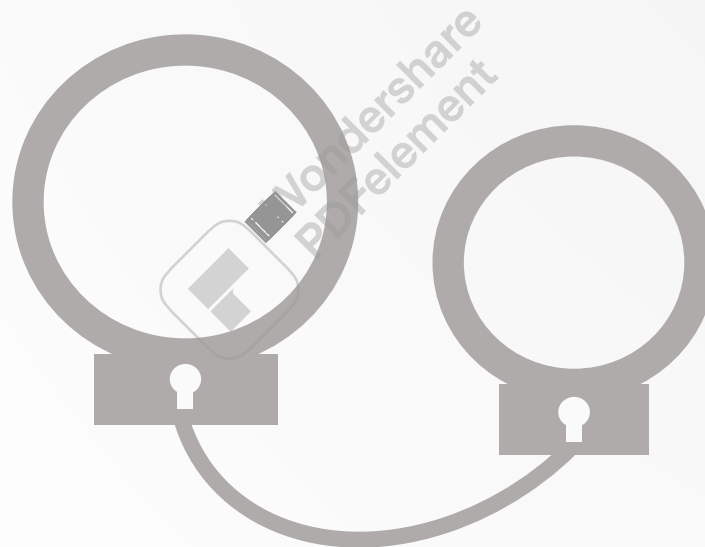
# CHAPTER 37 – FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS



# CHAPTER 39 - ABUSE OF OFFICE



# CHAPTER 39 – OFFICIAL OPPRESSION



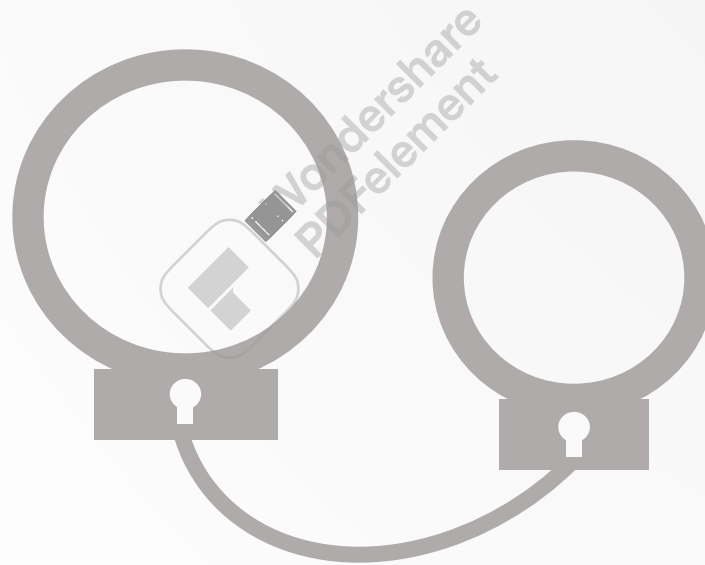
# CHAPTER 39 – MISUSE OF INFORMATION



# CHAPTER 39 – PROSECUTION



# CHAPTER 39 – LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATED ISSUES



# OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

# AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE





# OFFICIAL IMMUNITY



# RESOURCES

**TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**  
*Promoting Public Confidence in Government*

About TEC | What's New | Contact Us | Site Map | Links | Help

**Forms and Instructions**

- Home
- Search Campaign Finance and Lobby Reports
- File Reports Electronically
- Forms and Instructions
- Opinions, Statutes & Rules
- Publications and Guides
- Online Ethics Training

**Filing Information For:**

- Candidates and Officeholders
- Lobbyists
- Personal Financial Statement Filers
- Political Committees
- Political Parties
- Local Filers and Filing Authorities
- State Officers/Employees
- Other Filers
- Enforcement/Sworn Complaints

**Candidates/Officeholders**

- Nonjudicial Candidates/Officeholders
- Judicial Candidates/Officeholders
- Political Party & State/County Chair Candidates/Officeholders
- Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
- Legislative Caucus
- \*AFFIDAVITS\*

**Lobbyists**

**Personal Financial Statement Filers**

**Political Committees**

- General-Purpose Political Committees
- Specific-Purpose Political Committees
- State/County Chair Candidate Specific-Purpose Political Committees
- Individuals/Entities Making Direct Campaign Expenditures
- \*AFFIDAVITS\*

**Political Parties**

- Political Party: Reports of Contributions from Candidates
- County Executive Committees
- State/County Chair Candidates/Officeholders
- State/County Chair Candidate Specific-Purpose Political Committees
- \*AFFIDAVITS\*

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

**PITFALLS & PERILS OF PUBLIC OFFICE 2019**

*Basic Information for County Officers*

Anderson Andrews Angelina Aransas Archer Armstrong Atascosa Austin Bailey Bandera Bastrop Baylor Bee Bell Bexar Blanco Borden Bosque Bowie Brazoria Brazos Brewster Brooks Brown Buchanan Burnet Caldwell Callahan Callahan Cameron Camp Carson Cass Castro Chambers Cherokee Childress Clay Cochran Coke Coleman Collin Collingsworth Colorado Comal Comanche Concho Cooke Coryell Cottle Crane Crockett Crosby Culberson Dallam Dallas Dawson Deal Smith Delta Denton De Witt Dickens Dimmit Donley Duval Eastland Ector Edwards Elba El Paso Falls Fannin Fayette Fisher Floyd Ford Fort Bend Franklin Freestone Frio Gaines Galveston Garza Gillespie Glasscock Goliad Gonzales Gray Grayson Gregg Grimes Guadalupe Hale Hall Hamilton Harbison Hardeman Hardin Harris Harrison Harwin Haskell Hays Hemphill Henderson Hidalgo Hill Hockley Hood Hopkins Houston Hunt Jasper Jeff Davis Johnson Jones Kaufman Kendall Kenton Kerr Killebrew Kinney Knox Lampasas Leon Leonidas Lewis Lipscomb Live Oak Llano Lubbock Lynn Madison Martin Matagorda Maverick Medina Menard Midland Mills Mitchell Montague Montgomery Moore Morris Morrow Motley Mueller Navarro Newton Nolan Nueces O'Connell Orange Palo Pinto Parker Parmer Pecos Polk Potter Presidio Rains Randall Reagan Realtime Red River Reeves Reynolds Rockwall Rockwell Runnels Rusk San Antonio San Augustine San Jacinto San Saba Scurry Seaman Shelby Siskiyou Smith Somervell Starr Stephens Sterling Stonewall Sutton Swisher Tarrant Taylor Terrell Terry Throckmorton Titus Tom Green Travis Trinity Tyler Upton Uvalde Val Verde Van Zandt Victoria Walker Walter Ward Washington Wells Wharton Wheeler Wichita Willbarger Willacy Williamson Wilson Winkler Wise Wood Yorkum Young Zapata Zavala Anderson Andrews Angelina Aransas Archer Armstrong Atascosa Austin Bailey Bandera Brooks Brown Buchanan Burnet Caldwell Callahan Callahan Cameron Camp Carson Cass Castro Chambers Cherokee Childress Clay Cochran Coke Coleman Collin Collingsworth Colorado Comal Comanche Concho Cooke Coryell Cottle Crane Crockett Crosby Culberson Dallam Dallas Dawson Deal Smith Delta Denton De Witt Dickens Dimmit Donley Duval Eastland Ector Edwards Elba El Paso Falls Fannin Fayette Fisher Floyd Ford Fort Bend Franklin Freestone Frio Gaines Galveston Garza Gillespie Glasscock Goliad Gonzales Gray Grayson Gregg Grimes Guadalupe Hale Hall Hamilton Harbison Hardeman Hardin Harris Harrison Harwin Haskell Hays Hemphill Henderson Hidalgo Hill Hockley Hood Hopkins Houston Hunt Jasper Jeff Davis Johnson Jones Kaufman Kendall Kenton Kerr Killebrew Kinney Knox Lampasas Leon Leonidas Lewis Lipscomb Live Oak Llano Lubbock Lynn Madison Martin Matagorda Maverick Medina Menard Midland Mills Mitchell Montague Montgomery Moore Morris Morrow Motley Mueller Navarro Newton Nolan Nueces O'Connell Orange Palo Pinto Parker Parmer Pecos Polk Potter Presidio Rains Randall Reagan Realtime Red River Reeves Reynolds Rockwall Rockwell Runnels Rusk San Antonio San Augustine San Jacinto San Saba Scurry Seaman Shelby Siskiyou Smith Somervell Starr Stephens Sterling Stonewall Sutton Swisher Tarrant Taylor Terrell Terry Throckmorton Titus Tom Green Travis Trinity Tyler Upton Uvalde Val Verde Van Zandt Victoria Walker Walter Ward Washington Wells Wharton Wheeler Wichita Willbarger Willacy Williamson Wilson Winkler Wise Wood Yorkum Young Zapata Zavala

# Questions? Give us a ring!

