

DISCLAIMER

I need to contact a former associate or department at Milwaukee County. What am I allowed to do?

- You may contact Milwaukee County to obtain factual information that does not provide an unfair advantage to another and for which you are not receiving compensation.
- You may contact Milwaukee County as an agent of another governmental entity.
- You may also contact the Ethics Board to obtain a determination as to whether or not the proposed contact would violate the Ethics Code.

I'm not sure when my employment ended at Milwaukee County.

If you are unsure whether or not it has been twelve months since you left County service, contact Milwaukee County Division of Human Resources at (414) 278-4143 to determine your last day of employment with Milwaukee County.



This brochure highlights certain aspects of the Milwaukee County Ethics Code. In an effort to convey the meaning and purpose of the Ethics Code in the clearest manner, this brochure is written in 'plain English,' and may portray examples of ethical behavior. This brochure is not intended to encompass all the aspects of ethical concerns faced by individuals or groups affected by Milwaukee County's Ethics Code. This brochure is also not intended to replace an advisory opinion, which can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Ethics Board at the address below.



Milwaukee County Ethics Board

Courthouse Room 212
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee WI 53233

Phone: 414-278-5332
Fax: 414-223-1897

E-mail: mcethicsboard@milwcnty.com

Hours of Operation:
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Former Milwaukee County Officials & Employees



Courthouse Room 212
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Tel: (414) 278-5332
Fax: (414) 223-1897

Did you know that as a former employee or official of Milwaukee County, you may still be subject to section 9.05 of the Milwaukee County Ethics Code?



What is the Ethics Code?

The purpose of the Milwaukee County Ethics Code “is to establish standards of conduct to assist public officials and employees in avoiding those acts or actions that are incompatible with the best interests of county government and the people of Milwaukee County.” M.C.G.O. § 9.01(2)



How does the Ethics Code impact former employees and officials?

The Milwaukee County Ethics Code establishes standards of conduct. Under the conditions of Section 9.05, there is a 12-month period of time after leaving county service during which it is improper for you to contact your former department, whether formally or informally, if you are being compensated by another non-governmental entity for that contact. This contact would be improper if it is done for the purpose of influencing your former department.



Are there other restrictions on contact?

Yes! Under the same conditions,

1. You may not contact any employee or official associated with a department connected to a judicial or quasi-judicial matter that was your responsibility; and
2. You may not act on behalf of any party other than Milwaukee County regarding any judicial or quasi-judicial matter with which you participated substantially.

Note: Judicial refers to a judge, court, or the court system. Quasi-judicial refers to an agency, board, or other government entity whose activities and outcomes are similar to those of a judge, court, or the court system.

Why are these restrictions in place?

County employees and County elective or appointed officials hold their positions as a public trust. Efforts to realize personal gain through official conduct is a violation of that trust. The restriction on former employees is in place to avoid or reduce the incidence of using formerly held positions and the resulting knowledge of internal operations or contacts for personal financial gain or for the financial gain of the new employer.



Can you give me an example?

A former county employee is now employed by a company that wishes to do business with Milwaukee County. The former employee, because of knowledge gained while employed by Milwaukee County, may be able to use that knowledge to an unfair advantage for the new employer. That would be a violation of the Ethics Code.

