

WAC 308-13-013 What are the board member rules of conduct? (1)

When a member of the board either owns a beneficial interest in or is an officer, agent, employee, or member of an entity, or individual which is engaged in a transaction involving the board, the member shall:

- (a) Recuse oneself from the board discussion regarding the specific transaction;
- (b) Recuse oneself from the board vote on the specific transaction; and
- (c) Refrain from attempting to influence the remaining board members in their discussion and vote regarding the specific transaction.

(2) The prohibition against discussion and voting set forth in subsection (1)(a) and (c) of this section shall not prohibit the member of the board from using his or her general expertise to educate and provide general information on the subject area to the other members.

(3)(a) "Transaction involving the board" means a proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, case, or other similar matter that the member in question believes, or has reason to believe:

- (i) Is, or will be, the subject of board action; or
- (ii) Is one to which the board is or will be a party; or
- (iii) Is one in which the board has a direct and substantial proprietary interest.

(b) Does not include the following: Preparation, consideration, or enactment of legislation, including appropriation of moneys in a budget, or the performance of legislative duties by a member; or a claim, case, lawsuit, or similar matter if the member did not participate in the underlying transaction involving the board that is the basis for the claim, case, or lawsuit. Rule making is not a "transaction involving the board."

(4) "Board action" means any action on the part of the board, including, but not limited to:

- (a) A decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order; and
- (b) A grant, payment, award, license, contract, transaction, sanction, or approval, or the denial thereof, or failure to act with respect to a decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order.

(5) The following are examples of possible scenarios related to board member rules of conduct.

(a) **EXAMPLE 1:**

The board of licensure for landscape architects disciplines licensed landscape architects in Washington. The board is conducting an investigation involving the services provided by a licensed landscape architect. One of the members of the board is currently serving a subcontractor to that landscape architect on a large project. The board member must recuse himself or herself from any board investigation, discussion, deliberation and vote with respect to disciplinary actions arising from licensed landscape architect services.

(b) **EXAMPLE 2:**

The board of licensure for landscape architects makes licensing decisions on applications for licensure. An applicant for licensure owns a school construction business which employs licensed landscape architects, including one of the board members. The board member must recuse himself or herself from any board investigation, discussion, deliberation

and vote with respect to his or her employer's application for licensure.

(c) **EXAMPLE 3:**

The board of licensure for landscape architects makes licensing decisions on applications from licensed landscape architects in another state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or another country. The board can grant licensure if that individual's qualifications and experience are equivalent to the qualifications and experience required of a person registered under Washington law. An out-of-state applicant is employed as a landscape architect by a multinational corporation that is planning to build its world headquarters in Washington and has hired a board member's firm as the landscape architect for the project. The board member must recuse himself or herself from any board investigation, discussion, deliberation and vote with respect to the sufficiency of the out-of-state landscape architect's qualifications and experience.

(6) Recusal disclosure. If recusal occurs pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the member of the board shall disclose to the public the reasons for his or her recusal from any board action whenever recusal occurs. The board staff shall record each recusal and the basis for the recusal.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.96.060. WSR 10-12-116, amended and recodified as § 308-13-013, filed 6/2/10, effective 7/3/10; WSR 07-05-039, § 308-13-180, filed 2/15/07, effective 3/18/07.]