

The following document is AN EXAMPLE ONLY, intended to help you better understand the kind of provisions typically included in this type of agreement. It is not intended as a substitute for consulting with an experienced attorney and receiving legal advice based on the facts and circumstances of a particular case. It also does not necessarily represent the only possible way to structure the business relationship or the range of deal terms that might be available in a particular situation.

It is important to remember that just as every transaction is unique, so is the proper structure of the agreement documenting that transaction. Rarely does a so-called “standard” or “boilerplate” legal form fit the particular needs of the parties to a transaction. When a party says their contract is “standard” what they usually mean is that it is in a format that they are accustomed to using. There is some value in starting from a common ground, but never assume that a “standard” contract is not negotiable. It is all too common for parties to employ a “standard” form agreement without carefully considering the implications of its terms or its failure to address critical issues until a dispute arises. There are those who believe that the process of negotiating the terms of agreements is tedious and is a waste of time and money – they often try to cut corners by employing “standard” forms. However, in our experience the process of careful drafting and thorough negotiation is as valuable (or more so) than the final product. Those who take the time to clearly discuss their expectations, and to memorialize those expectations in a written agreement, forge stronger relationships and are much less likely to find themselves in a dispute later on.

**ADDENDUM TO BYLAWS OF
MINNESOTA NONPROFIT**

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

This Addendum to Bylaws of the MINNESOTA NONPROFIT is hereby adopted effective as of _____, 200_.

Article I
Purpose

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (Organization) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Article II
Definitions

1. Interested Person. Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.
2. Financial Interest. A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family: (a) An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement; (b) A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement; or (c) A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article 3, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Article III
Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an Interested Person must disclose the existence of the Financial Interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committee with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.
2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists. After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the Interested Person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest.
 - a. An Interested Person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.

- b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy.

- a. If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Article IV
Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain: (i) The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a Financial Interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the Financial Interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed; and (ii) The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

Article V
Compensation

- 1. A voting member of the governing body who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- 2. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- 3. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

Article VI
Annual Statements

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person: (i) has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy; (ii) has read and understands the policy; (iii) has agreed to comply with the policy; and (iv) understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exempt status it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Article VII
Periodic Reviews

To ensure the Organization operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic review shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects: (i) Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining; and (ii) Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Organization's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods or services, further charitable purposes, and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

Article VIII
Use of Outside Experts

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the Organization may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

CERTIFICATION

This Addendum to Bylaws was approved at a meeting of the Board by a majority vote of the Directors entitled to vote on _____, 200_.

Secretary

Date: _____, 200_