

Financial Services Tribunal Ethics Plan

Introduction

The Financial Services Tribunal (FST) is an expert and independent adjudicative tribunal established under the *Financial Services Tribunal Act, 2017* (Act). The FST carries out adjudicative functions in connection with appeals or reviews of the decisions or notices of proposal or notices of intended decision of the Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Service Regulatory Authority under applicable legislation.

The FST is committed to maintaining a high level of public confidence and trust in the professional and ethical delivering of its mandate. Members of the FST (Members) are required to conduct themselves according to prescribed ethical standards.

Ontario Regulation 91/11 and section 6 of the *Adjudicative Tribunals Accountability, Governance and Appointments Act, 2009* requires every adjudicative tribunal to develop an ethics plan, the contents of which are prescribed.

This Ethics Plan has been prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and has been approved by the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario. It applies to all Members.

Practices and Procedures

A. Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006

Members are bound to comply with the requirements of Part IV (Ethical Conduct) and Part V (Political Activity) of the [Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006](#) (the “PSOA”) to ensure that their private interests are not in conflict with their duties and responsibilities to the FST or the Crown.

These requirements include the Conflict of Interest Rules for Public Servants (Ministry) and Former Public Servants (Ministry), O. Reg. 381/07 enacted under the PSOA. The Conflict of Interest Rules help Members and former Members identify the types of situations in which actual, apparent or potential conflicts of interest may arise, and, set out guidelines against which possible conflicts of interest will be assessed by the Chair of the FST.

The FST will ensure that Members are familiar with the requirements of the PSOA by:

1. Providing each Member, on appointment, with:
 - a. the relevant provisions of the PSOA
 - b. the [Conflict of Interest Rules](#)
 - c. the internet link to the [Office of the Integrity Commissioner](#) website;

2. Requiring each new Member to acknowledge receipt of the above-mentioned documents;
3. Training new Members on their responsibilities at the earliest opportunity after appointment;
4. Notifying Members of any amendments to the PSOA that address ethical conduct or political activity;
5. Notifying Members yearly, about the requirements of Part IV and Part V of the PSOA; and
6. Assigning an experienced Member to each new Member, as a mentor.

B. Code of Conduct

Members are required to comply with the FST's Code of Conduct (Code), which provides guidance on their professional and ethical responsibilities. The FST will ensure that Members are familiar with the Code by:

1. Providing each Member with a copy of the Code on appointment;
2. Requiring each new Member to acknowledge receipt of the Code;
3. Internal training of new Members on their responsibilities at the earliest opportunity after appointment and ongoing internal training as directed by the Chair, as well as external training through Member participation/attendance in industry seminars/conferences (e.g., SOAR, etc.) approved by the Chair;
4. Notifying Members of any amendments to the Code; and
5. Notifying Members annually, of their responsibilities under the Code.

C. Other Tools

The FST may develop other internal policies (for example, rules of practice) to help Members meet their obligations.

D. Ethics Plan for FST Staff

The Ontario Public Service has a separate government-wide ethics plan: *Guide to Public Service Ethics and Conduct* that applies to all staff working at the FST.

Alternative Formats/Contact Information

If you require this Ethics Plan in an accessible format, please contact the FST Registrar at contact@fstontario.ca.

Adoption

This Ethics Plan will be reviewed every three years along with the other documentation required by the *Adjudicative Tribunals Accountability, Governance and Appointments Act, 2009*.

This revised Ethics Plan was adopted by the Members on September 17, 2024.

First adopted August 3, 2021