

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why does this Complaint Report have to be notarized?

A document that has been notarized is one that's been marked with a stamp (or "seal"), which indicates that the signature on the document is legitimate. A notary watches you sign a document, and then places the stamp near your signature. This tells the Ethics Review Board that you really signed the document – it wasn't somebody else posing as you.

2. Why does this Complaint Report have to be sent by certified mail?

The Ho-Chunk Nation Code of Ethics Act requires that the Complaints to the Ethics Review Board must be sent by certified mail. Certified Mail is a service offered by the United States Postal Service. When an item is sent using this service, the person who sends it will receive a proof of delivery confirmation.

3. Why does the Complaint Report have to be sent to an address in Minnesota?

The Ethics Review Board takes its responsibility to keep ethics complaints confidential very seriously. The Ethics Review Board does not have a staff person at the Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Administration Building that could accept and process all the mail. The attorney who represents the Ethics Review Board is located in St. Paul, Minnesota and has been tasked with accepting mail on the Board's behalf.

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4. If I file a complaint, what are my responsibilities?

The responsibilities of the Complainant (the person who files the Complaint) are: 1) to answer questions asked by the Ethics Review Board; 2) participate in any investigation conducted by the Ethics Review Board; and 3) attend any hearings held by the Ethics Review Board.

5. If I file a complaint, is there anything that can protect me from being fired?

Your Complaint may fall under the whistleblower protections provided by the Ho-Chunk Nation Employment Relations Act (see Section 6.g. of the Employment Relations Act; 6 HCC §5.6.g.).

Ho-Chunk Nation

Ethics Review Board



Ho Chunk Nation-Ethics
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Overview

The Ethics Review Board is in place to enforce the Code of Ethics Act per the Ho-Chunk Constitution.

The enforcement of this Code will be governed by the following goals:

- To foster a free and good government to the Ho-Chunk Nation by assisting Public Officials of the Nation to avoid conflicts between personal interest and public responsibilities.

To serve as a useful reference for guidance, to avoid conflicts, and to improve the level of public service of public officials.

Promote the highest ethical conduct for all Public Official employees of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ethics Review Board is to practice and promote the highest standards of ethical behavior in the Ho-Chunk Nation government and Public Officials.

In order to accomplish the Mission of the Ho-Chunk Ethics Review Board, the Board shall:

- Clearly inform Public Officials and Tribal Members of existing Ho-Chunk Nation Ethics laws and rules;
- Actively enforce all Ho-Chunk Nation ethics laws and rules;
- Recommend new laws, rules and programs that will lead to ethics compliance; and
- Adhere to the Ho-Chunk Nation Code of Ethics.
- To improve standards of public service.
- To improve and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people of the Ho-Chunk Nation in their government.

Declaration of the Code of Ethics Act

It is declared that high moral and ethical standards among Ho-Chunk Nation Public Officials is essential to the conduct of free government and it is the intent of the Legislature that this act promotes the highest ethical conduct for all Public Officials of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

In addition, to the following all other laws of the Nation, this code shall be applied to all Public Officials.

The Ho-Chunk Nation's Employment Relations Act or superseding employment law shall be applied to employees of the Nation.

Pertaining to Judges and Justices, if there are any conflicts between this code and the Ho-Chunk Nation Rules of Judicial Ethics, the Ho-Chunk Nation Rules of Judicial ethics shall control.

Ho-Chunk Nation Ethics Review Board Complaint Process

