

Conflict of Interest Policy

Employees, board members, and independent contractors (collectively referred to as “HCL Representative”) of the Houston Coalition for Life (“HCL”) have an obligation to conduct business within guidelines that prohibit actual or potential conflicts of interest. This policy establishes the definition of a conflict of interest and the procedure to use in determining whether an actual conflict of interest exists.

An actual or potential conflict of interest occurs when an HCL Representative is in a position to influence a decision that may result in personal gain or gain for a relative as a result of the HCL’s business dealings. For the purpose of this policy, a relative is any person who is related by blood or marriage, or whose relationship with a board member or an employee is similar to that of persons who are related by blood or marriage.

Personal gain may result not only in cases where an HCL Representative or relative has an ownership interest in a firm or business with which the HCL does business, or is considering doing business, but also when an HCL Representative holds an investment of any kind in such a company or business, receives any compensation, substantial gift, or special consideration as a result of any transaction or business dealings involving the HCL.

No presumption of a conflict is created by the mere existence of a relationship with outside firms or businesses. However, if an HCL Representative has any influence on any material business transactions which may benefit themselves or a relative, it is imperative that they disclose to the President of the board of directors, as soon as possible, the existence of any actual or potential conflict of interest so the full board can render a determination on the transaction in question.

It is expected that anyone who suspects a conflict of interest may exist will, in addition to notifying the board President, immediately recuse themselves from making any decisions regarding the transaction in question until a determination from the full board is received.