# NONPROFIT INTEGRITY ACT OF 2004

Effective January 1, 2005

Overview: The Act makes changes to existing law re: charity registration, charity governance and charitable solicitation

### NONPROFIT INTEGRITY ACT OF 2004

Applies to:

 Charitable Organizations: Nonprofit corporations, unincorporated associations and charitable trusts

 Professional fundraisers: Commercial fundraisers and fundraising counsel FAQ: Does the Nonprofit Integrity Act of 2004 apply only to organizations domiciled in California?

Short Answer: No

### NONPROFIT INTEGRITY ACT OF 2004

- A charity must register with the Attorney General within 30 days after it first receives property - GC sec. 12585
- Registration requires a CT-1 and a copy of governing instrument
- Property includes money and any other type of real or personal property

### Independent Audit Of Annual Financial Statements

- Applies to the following charitable entities
   with \$2 million or more in gross revenue \*
  - Nonprofit Corporations
  - Unincorporated Associations
  - Trusts
  - \* except revenue from government grants and contracts where an accounting is required

# FAQ: What is included in "gross revenue?"

Short Answer: Follow instructions for Line 12 of IRS Form 990 and Line 12, column (a) of IRS Form 990PF

FAQ: Are non-cash contributions included in "gross revenue?"

Short Answer: Yes

FAQ: In determining "gross revenue," how will income from special events be treated?

Short Answer: As reported on IRS Form 990

FAQ: In determining "gross revenue," how will one-time donations be treated?

Short Answer: No exemption for such donations

### Independent Audit Of Annual Financial Statements

Must be made available to the Attorney General and the public

No later than 9 months after close of fiscal year

# FAQ: What is the effective date for a certified audit?

Short Answer: A certified audit is required for all fiscal years ending on or after June 30, 2005

FAQ: Under the Act, does a charity have to make any prior audited financial statements available to the public?

Short Answer: No

FAQ: What documents related to the audited financial statements must be released to the public?

Short Answer: All statements and notes. The management letter does not have to be released.

FAQ: Does the extension for filing IRS Form 990 also apply to the completion date for the audit?

Short Answer: No

# **Audit Committee Required for Nonprofit Corporations \***

- Members of Audit Committee
  - Appointed by Governing Board
  - Can be non-Governing Board members
  - Cannot be:
    - Staff Members (employees of the charity)
    - President or CEO
    - Treasurer or CFO
    - Comprised of 50% or more from Finance Committee

\* With \$2 million or more revenue exclusive of government grants & contracts

FAQ: May an unpaid staff member, president or CEO, treasurer or CFO serve on the audit committee?

Short Answer: No

# FAQ: When does the audit committee have to be appointed?

Short Answer: On January 1, 2005 or as soon as the Governing Board meets. While a reasonable delay is okay, an audit committee should be appointed no later than the end of the first quarter.

FAQ: What is the minimum permissible number of persons who may serve on the audit committee?

Short Answer: One

#### **Duties of the Audit Committee**

- Recommend hiring and firing of CPA to the Governing Board
- Confirm that the financial affairs are in order
- Review and accept/reject audit
- Approve non-audit services by CPA

# **Executive Compensation Must Be Reviewed And Approved**

- By the Governing Board or Authorized Board Committee
- Applies to:
  - Nonprofit Corporations
  - Unincorporated Associations
  - Trusts

GC 12586(g)

# **Executive Compensation Must Be Reviewed And Approved**

- For the following positions:
  - President or CEO
  - Treasurer or CFO
- "Just and reasonable" compensation
- Applies when:
  - Initial Hiring of the Officer
  - Renewing or Extending the Employment Term
  - Modifying the Compensation

# FAQ: What if the officer is an at-will employee?

Short Answer: Compensation must be reviewed on initial hiring and whenever compensation is modified

FAQ: Does this new law supercede the existing fiduciary duties of officers, directors, and trustees concerning excessive compensation?

Short Answer: No – compensation must always be reasonable

FAQ: If the charity has staff members who are paid more than the president or CEO or treasurer or CFO, does the compensation-review provision in the Act apply to them?

Short Answer: No

#### Commercial Fundraisers

- Commercial Fundraiser defined:
  - Any individual, corporation, or any legal entity who
     does the following for compensation:
    - solicits assets for charitable purposes,
    - receives or controls such solicited assets, or
    - employs any compensated person to do either
- Must file written notice to Attorney General
  - 10 working days before the start of a solicitation campaign or event
  - Exception for Disaster Solicitations

GC sec. 12599(h)

#### Commercial Fundraisers Must Have Written Contracts

- For every solicitation campaign or event
- Voidable unless the commercial fundraiser is registered with the Attorney General
- Must be signed by an official authorized by the Charity's Governing Board

#### Commercial Fundraisers Must Have Written Contracts

- The written contract must contain or state:
  - Charitable Purpose
  - Obligations of both parties
  - Fee arrangement
  - Effective, start, and termination dates
  - 5-day deposit of contributions requirement

GC sec. 12599(I)

#### Commercial Fundraisers Must Have Written Contracts

- The written contract must contain or state:
  - Charity's control of content and frequency of solicitation
  - Maximum amount to secure a person's attendance, approval, sponsorship or endorsement of an event
  - Charity's cancellation rights

#### FUNDRAISING COUNSEL

- Fundraising Counsel is any person who for compensation
  - Plans, manages, consults or prepares material for solicitation of assets for charitable purposes
  - Does not solicit assets for charitable purposes
  - Does not receive/control such assets
  - Does not employ persons who solicit assets or receive/control such assets
- Notice to the Attorney General
  - 10 working days before the start of a solicitation campaign or event
  - Exception for Disaster Solicitations

#### Fundraising Counsel Must Have Written Contracts

- For every solicitation campaign or event
- Voidable unless the fundraising counsel is registered with the Attorney General
- Must be signed by an official authorized by the Charity's Governing Board

GC sec. 12599.1(e)

### **Fundraising Counsel Must Have Written Contracts**

- The written contract must contain or state:
  - Charitable Purpose
  - Obligations of both parties
  - Fee arrangement
  - Effective, start, and termination dates
  - Charity's cancellation rights

GC sec. 12599.1(f)

### **Fundraising Counsel Must Have Written Contracts**

- The written contract must contain or state:
  - Charity's control of content and frequency of solicitation
  - Statement that fundraising counsel will neither solicit, receive nor control donated funds, assets and property, or employ any other person to do so

 Contract voidable by charity if CFR or FRC not registered with AG

Charity has right to cancel for any reason w/in 10 days of execution

GC sec. 12599.3

# **Specific Obligations When Fundraising**

- No misrepresentations of purpose of charity or beneficiary
- Charity must exercise control over fundraising activities
  - Approval of written contracts
  - Assure no coercion
- No solicitation unless CFR, FC and charity are all registered with the AG

GC sec. 12599.6

# **Specific Obligations When Fundraising**

 Within 5 working days, commercial fundraisers must deposit all contributions into a bank account controlled by nonprofit corporation or personally deliver contributions to nonprofit corporation

- Any violation of Govt. Code 12580-12599.7
- Unfair or deceptive acts or fraudulent conduct
- Using any name or symbol that falsely suggests a contribution is for a particular charitable organization
- Misrepresenting that a contribution is for a charitable organization or will be used for a charitable purpose when it is not true

- Representing that a person endorses a charitable solicitation when that person has not agreed to do so in writing
- Representing that goods or services have endorsements or characteristics that they do not have
- Representing that a person has endorsements or affiliations that they do not have

- Misrepresenting that registration constitutes an endorsement or approval by the Attorney General
- Misrepresenting the net proceeds to be received by the charity
- Issuing items that can be used for display on a motor vehicle that suggest affiliation with a group of public safety personnel

- Representing that contributions solicited will be given to another charity without its prior written consent
- Representing that event tickets will be donated for use by another person or entity unless:
  - Written commitments to accept tickets
  - Donated tickets do not exceed total ticket commitments or the seating capacity of the event site

#### Commercial Fundraisers Must Keep Records for 10 Years

- Cash: date and amount
- Non-cash: date, amount, name and address of donor
- Name and address of each employee or agent involved

GC sec. 12599.7

#### Commercial Fundraisers Must Keep Records for 10 Years

- Documentation of all revenue received and expenses incurred
- All bank account numbers, names, and locations that received revenue deposited by commercial fundraiser

# Attorney General's Website and Contacts

http://ag.ca.gov/charities

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www.leginfo.ca.gov - SB 1262