



## **Conflict of Interest Policy**

Employees and board members 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 a board member, volunteer or employee 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 a board member, volunteer, employee, or relative has a significant ownership in a firm with which the HCL does business, but also when a board member, volunteer, employee, or relative holds an investment of any kind in such a company, 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. However, if a board member, volunteer or employee has any influence on any material business transactions which may benefit themselves, a spouse or a relative, it is imperative that they disclose to the President of the board of directors – Mr. Brock Akers at [bca@akersfirm.com](mailto:bca@akersfirm.com) – as soon as possible the existence of any possible 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.