

Legal & Ethical Issues


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Description

This training provides elected and appointed officials and local government staff with a discussion on legal and ethical issues often faced by elected and appointed officials. CDO staff will work with the community requesting the training to develop an agenda according to their desired educational needs. Often this training is provided in conjunction with a general Planning Commission training. Topics of this training include due process, quasi-judicial v. legislative standards for action, ex parte contacts, open meetings, conflicts of interest, governmental immunity and executive sessions. This training can go into further detail on specific topics by request.

How to use the information

Requests for this training are made directly to Community Development Office (CDO) staff and are provided on-site. The presentation usually runs approximately 30-45 minutes, depending on the specific topics covered and the amount of discussion that takes place. We also ask communities to invite their neighboring jurisdictions to (1) make best use of state resources and reach a broader audience whenever feasible, and (2) allow for informal sharing and networking between neighboring local government officials on common matters. Attendees are given materials to supplement the training. No legal advice is given; attendees are encouraged to consult with their local government attorney.

Why this is important

Elected and appointed officials are often term-limited, which equates to frequent turn over. This training helps to establish a common set of facts and tools to work with. For some, this training will simply serve as a reminder. For others, the information will provide them with tools necessary for serving in a judicial or quasi-judicial role for local government.