



Gifts Seminar

Ethics Counselor Course



Scenarios

- **You just started your new position as the ethics counselor for your organization – congratulations!**
- **What do you advise concerning each of the following gift scenarios?**



Scenario

AmeriCom, a communications industry association and a prohibited source, sponsors a two-day industry-wide seminar. The registration fee is \$500 and AmeriCom expects approximately 500 people to attend. Using \$2,000 from Tel-All, a Government contractor, AmeriCom extends free invitations to four employees from your agency selected by Tel-All. The employees will be attending in their personal capacities (excused absence). Can the employees accept free attendance at the seminar?



Scenario

Jim, a civilian employee with your agency, has done some innovative work in rubber technology. The National Rubber Foundation (Foundation), an NFE that does business with your agency, has selected Jim to receive the Foundation's prestigious "Gumby" award. Jim does not deal with the Foundation as part of his official duties. Presented annually, this award includes a \$1,500 cash prize. The award will be presented to Jim during the awards luncheon at the Foundation's Convention in Las Vegas. The Foundation has invited Jim and his wife to attend the award luncheon and offered to pay their airfare and hotel expenses valued at \$1,200.



Scenario

An airman who was recently wounded in combat operations in Afghanistan has returned to the U.S. and is now recovering at a local military hospital. The airman's family would like to visit him at the hospital but cannot afford to make the trip. A support contractor at the hospital learns of this situation and wants to help. The contractor offers to purchase airline tickets for the family and to cover their cost of staying at a nearby hotel for a week. The total value of the gift is \$2,500. Can the soldier or his family accept the gift?



Scenario

A telephone company work crew was installing some underground wiring at Naval Air Station (NAS) Paradise when they inadvertently struck a gas line causing an explosion in the barracks, injuring five occupants. The barracks building was severely damaged and had to be demolished. In addition to the injuries and damage to the barracks, the occupants lost many personal items. Following the incident, there was an outpouring of support from the local community. The Commander has been advised of the following potential gifts.



Scenario

- **A wealthy local businessman, who is a Navy contractor, has offered to make a monetary contribution sufficient to cover the expense of rebuilding the barracks.**
- **The Chief of Naval Operations of the German Navy, who happened to be visiting NAS Paradise at the time, wanted to help out and has offered to give each of the barracks occupants a new Blu-Ray player. The Blu-Ray players are manufactured in Germany and cost \$360 each.**



Scenario

- **A local clothing store, that is not a prohibited source, has offered each occupant of the barracks a gift certificate worth \$150 dollars to help defray the cost of replacing clothing that was lost in the explosion.**
- **To show their appreciation for the military, a local restaurant has offered all military personnel a 10% discount on meals for the month of July.**



Scenario

- **The Chief of Staff (CoS) calls you into his office to discuss his plans for procuring gifts for MG Challenge, the retiring commander. Because MG Challenge is an avid golfer, the CoS is considering the following golf related gifts.**
- **First, he thought that the officers would give MG Challenge a golf cart, valued at \$3,000. He says that he has prepared a memorandum requesting each officer to contribute \$30.**



Scenario

- **If the golf cart isn't allowed, the CoS is looking at the officers giving MG Challenge a gift certificate for two private golf lessons (\$120 per lesson) with the local pro. The CoS, who always leads by example, will be the first to donate to this gift.**



Scenario

- **Next, he is pretty sure that MG Challenge will be able to reduce his handicap by at least two stokes and become a scratch golfer if he has the new Big-Bazooka driver, the one with the depleted uranium head. It is valued at \$295. He has requested that the Sergeant Major solicit \$10 from each of the 27 NCOs. Because that will only give them \$270 and he thinks it is not appropriate to ask the NCOs for more, the CoS will kick in the additional \$25.**



Scenario

- **Finally, he is certain Mrs. Challenge will want to stay in touch with her husband when he is golfing. Because they will no longer have access to their government cell phones, the CoS thought it would be nice to give each of them a cell phone valued at \$100 each. He plans to ask the senior civilians, of which there are 10, to contribute \$10 each towards the cell phone for Mrs. Challenge. He is thinking about asking the President of the installation maintenance contractor (an old golfing buddy of MG Challenge) for a \$100 donation towards the other cell phone.**