



Office of the Public Auditor

Statement of Financial Interests Flash Report

January 26, 2023

The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is responsible for the oversight of Statement of Financial Interests (SFI) submissions from reporting individuals as required by 1 CMC §§ 8511-23.

What is a Statement of Financial Interests

As stated in 1 CMC §§ 8503(f) and 8513, an SFI is a document to be filed with OPA by reporting individuals that have (1) any interest as a result of which the owner currently receives or is entitled to receive in the future more than \$5,000 per year; (2) any interest with a cost or present value of \$5,000 or more; or (3) any interest representing more than 10 percent of a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, organization, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust, or any legal entity organization for profit.

Who Should File

- Gubernatorial appointed and elected officials.
- Persons subject to confirmation by the Legislature.
- All government employees receiving additional compensation for services rendered to or as an independent contractor for the government.



Scan to download forms
www.opacnmi.com

Where to File

Notarized SFIs and declarations for 30-day extension are to be filed with the Office of the Public Auditor at #1236 Yap Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

Applicable forms are available for download at OPA's official website. OPA provides free notary service for SFIs.

Deadlines

- **May 1st** of every calendar year, unless an SFI has already been filed within the calendar year.
- A person who first becomes subject to file an SFI within 30 days prior to May 1 can file on or before May 31 without penalty.
- **One 30-day extension** can be obtained not less than 10 days before the date on which the SFI is due. A declaration for extension must be accompanied by a **\$50 fee** payable to the Commonwealth Government.

Penalties

- Not more than **\$10 a day** for each day of delinquency, as the Public Auditor determines, subject to appeal to the Commonwealth Superior Court.
- A person required to file an SFI who refuses or knowingly fails to disclose required information within the time required, or who knowingly provides false or misleading information is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of **not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000**, or by imprisonment for a period of not more than six months, or both.

IMPORTANT!

- Imposition of penalty does not grant filers an excuse from filing an SFI.
- Failure to file, except when a declaration extension is filed, constitutes a violation of 1 CMC § 8515.
- No reporting individual shall be allowed to take the oath of office, enter, be confirmed, or continue his or her duties, nor shall he or she receive compensation from the Commonwealth, unless he or she has filed an SFI.



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What should be disclosed in the form?

If **Yes**, complete the following:

Were you an officer, director, associate, partner, proprietor or employee, or did you serve in any advisory capacity in any professional, business or other organization other than the Commonwealth Government from which you derived any income in excess of \$2,500 during the preceding calendar year?

Schedule A
Positions Held Outside of the CNMI Government

Did you render any professional, business or other services to persons conducting business with the CNMI Government from which you received compensation in excess of \$5,000 during the preceding calendar year?

Schedule B
Services Rendered to Persons Other than the CNMI Government

Did you have a financial interest in any person who applied to the CNMI Government for any license or franchise or any permit for annexation, zoning, or rezoning of real estate during the preceding calendar year?

Schedule C
Government Permits/Licenses

Did you realize a capital gain of \$5,000 or more in the preceding calendar year for any capital asset other than the sale of your principal place of residence?

Schedule D
Capital Gains

Were you employed by any unit of government other than the CNMI Government during the preceding calendar year?

Schedule E
Employment with Government Units Other than the CNMI

Did you receive one or more gifts or honoraria, except gifts from relatives, having an aggregate value in excess of \$500 during the preceding calendar year?

Schedule F
Gifts

Did you have a financial interest in any person conducting business in the CNMI, except for publicly held corporations, during the preceding calendar year?

Schedule G
Financial Interest Other Than Real Estate

Did you in the preceding year and/or do you now have any form of direct or indirect financial interest in real estate located in the CNMI, other than your principal place of residence?

Schedule H
Financial Interest in Real Estate

Were you a creditor, a debtor, or guarantor of debt to persons who transacted business with the CNMI Government, the debt of which exceeded \$5,000, in the preceding calendar year?

Schedule I
Debts

Did you have any financial interest in or hold any position with any person who transacted business with the CNMI Government during the preceding calendar year?

Schedule J
Transactions with the CNMI Government

Did you receive additional compensation as a public employee for professional services rendered to, or as an independent contractor for, the Commonwealth Government?

Schedule K
Compensation for Professional Services Rendered or as Independent Contractor

Agency Responsibilities

Department of Finance

- No later than **February 1**, the Department of Finance shall certify to OPA a list of names— in alphabetical order and mailing addresses of individuals that are required to file an SFI.
- A supplemental list containing the names of additional required SFI filers since February 1st must be certified to OPA **not less than 30 days before May 1st**. The supplemental list must be in the same format as the original certified list.

OPA

- Prescribe an SFI form.
- Notify in writing all individuals that are required to file an SFI no later than March 1st, via mail or personal delivery.
- Notify by certified mail individuals that failed to file by the specified deadline.
- Deliver a dated receipt to the filing individual indicating that an SFI has been filed.
- All SFIs are required to remain confidential unless otherwise requested pursuant to 1 CMC § 8514(d).