



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ethics & Rules Committee proposes administrative amendments to procedures on advisory opinions

"The proposed amendments will help to filter out requests which do not fall under the authority of the Ethics & Rules Committee." — Lawrence John, executive director of the Ethics & Rules Office

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. —The Ethics & Rules Committee of the 21st Navajo Nation Council are proposing several administrative amendments to the procedures on advisory opinions.

Changes to the administrative amendments were proposed by the committee since the committee has received numerous requests for issuance of opinions which are not under the authority of the Ethics & Rules Committee.

"The primary purpose of the proposed amendments is to provide an administrative process for responses to requests for advisory opinions," said Lawrence John, director of the Ethics & Rules Office. "A further purpose is to define the scope of such opinions, as well as the authority of the Ethics & Rules Committee in issuing such opinions."

Upon receiving an advisory request, the director will first determine whether a request for an advisory opinion complies fully with the written law. If not, the director will immediately return a response to the requesting party if the request is one that is beyond the scope of the purpose for which advisory opinions are issued.

The director will also provide a written explanation to the requesting party as to why his or her request will not be forwarded to the Ethics & Rules Committee for an advisory opinion.

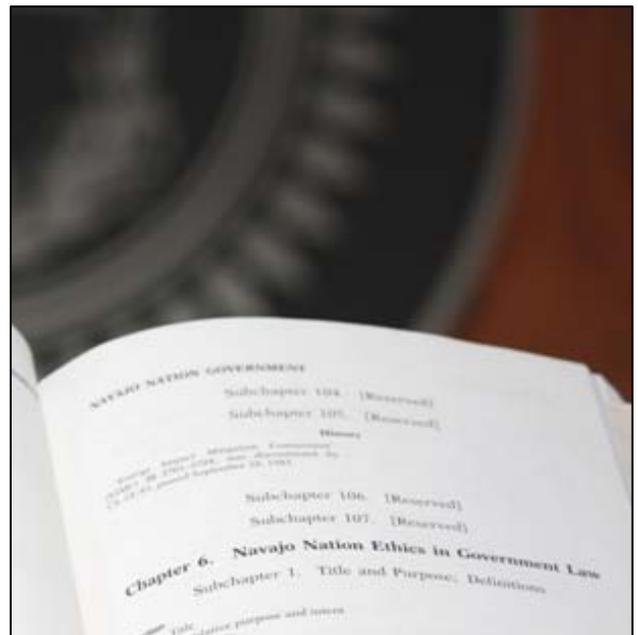
Constituents often times submit requests which are beyond the scope of purposes for which the advisory opinions are issued, or submit requests which include a specific restriction under the rules.

"Unfortunately, it is common for people to attempt to get an advisory opinion to use as a form of retaliation to try to prohibit people from running for public office," said John.

The committee also receives requests for opinions to matters which should be handled internally.

"The proposed amendments will help to filter out requests which do not fall under the authority of the Ethics & Rules Committee," said John.

Under the proposed amendments, the committee can also return an advisory opinion request to the Ethics & Rules Office for an appropriate response if the committee agrees the request does not fall within their authority.



The Ethics & Rules Committee tabled the proposed changes on Oct 3, to allow the 45-day comment notice and comment period.

To view the proposed changes, please go to www.navajonationcouncil.org and refer to the "downloads" page. To view the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law in Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, visit www.nnethicsrules.navajo.org/Law.htm.

Any written comments can be submitted to: The Ethics & Rules Committee, P.O. Box 5490, Window Rock, AZ 86515.

Comments must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Nov. 17. Comments can also be hand-delivered to the Ethics & Rules Office in Window Rock, Ariz. The Ethics and Rules Office is located across from the main Navajo Housing Authority complex. For more information, call 928-871-6369.

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