

# Fair Political Practices Commission Guidelines for Waiving Late Fines

## Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) – Annual Statements

Employees and officeholders at all state and local government agencies, as well as candidates for public office are required to file Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) to disclose their personal financial interests. Once filed, the form is a public document and must be made available to the public on request (Section 81008). The forms alert public officials about their own economic interests and potential areas of conflict in relation to their duties, and provide information to members of the public who may monitor official actions for any conflicts.

Any person who files a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) after the deadline imposed by the Political Reform Act is liable for a late fine pursuant to Government Code Section 91013. Fines issued pursuant to this section shall not exceed \$10 per day to a maximum of \$100.

The Fair Political Practices Commission will consider a request to waive the payment of a late fine if the request is based on “good cause.”

### Waiver Request

A written request for waiver of a late fine must be submitted to the Technical Assistance Division. The waiver request must be signed by the person required to file the particular statement upon which the late filing fine was assessed.

### Good Cause

#### 1. Incapacitation for Medical Reasons

Adequate documentation consists of a doctor’s, psychologist’s, therapist’s, chiropractor’s, or other medical provider’s statement giving the nature of the incapacitation, the date(s) thereof, and the individual’s name. This information may also be provided for an immediate family member’s illness.

#### 2. Hospitalization

Adequate documentation consists of a copy of the hospital bill or doctor’s statement showing the patient’s name and the date(s) of the hospitalization.

#### 3. Accident Involvement

If medical attention is provided and results in the late filing, a copy of the hospital bill, emergency room service, or doctor’s statement, showing the patient’s name and date(s) and time(s) of medical attention, is adequate documentation. If the accident involvement results in delay or vehicle disablement which causes the late filing, adequate documentation consists of a police report showing the individual’s name, the date and time of the accident, and, if applicable, whether or not the vehicle was disabled.

4. **Loss or Unavailability of Records**

The loss or unavailability of records due to a fire, flood, theft or similar reason. Adequate documentation shall consist of a police, fire or insurance report, containing the date of the occurrence and the extent of the loss or damage.

5. **Other Good Cause as Shown**

The Technical Assistance Division Chief may waive any late fine for other good cause as shown.

**Late fines will *not* be waived for reasons such as:**

- Vacation
- Filer's busy season
- Spouse/assistant failed to file the form on behalf of the filer
- Filer needed additional time to gather information in order to file
- Filer is waiting for professional assistance from financial advisor/CPA/FPPC before filing
- Filer asserts that he or she has not been late before, but promises to file on time in the future
- Form was accidentally misplaced on desk, home or in vehicle
- Filer did not receive a reminder to file his/her annual statement