
POLITICAL ACTIVITY

HSWC, Inc. encourages employees to take an active interest in government and to participate in political affairs. All staff members have the right to express their opinions on political issues and candidates, and are also encouraged to exercise these rights. However, such staff activity is subject to the following conditions:

1. No action will be allowed, by any person, which infringes upon the right of any staff member to decide which candidates or positions to support. The Agency will not endorse or contribute to any political candidate, party or cause. In carrying out its basic missions and goals, however, the Agency may actively engage in campaigning connected with law reform and lawful attempts to influence government officials to respond to the grievances of families and children served by this Agency.
2. No staff member is allowed to give the impression that any political action or position represents the Agency. All political activities are to be done as the actions of individuals, on their own time, away from Agency facilities. Use of program funds, equipment or premises is strictly forbidden.
3. No staff member is allowed directly or indirectly to coerce, attempt to coerce, command or advise any other staff member to pay, lend or contribute anything of value to a political party, committee, organization, agency or person for political purpose.
4. Under the Hatch Act, Agency employees, but not Board Members or volunteers, are prohibited from being candidates for a partisan public elective office. The prohibition includes both the Primary and General elections. A person covered by this regulation who is planning to run for a partisan public elective office should resign his/her position prior to the announcement of candidacy or commencement of substantial activities intended to directly promote his/her candidacy.

Any questions related to this policy must be referred to the Executive Director and/or HSWC, Inc. Board of Directors.

*Approved BOD 8/30/2000
Approved by Policy Council 1/31/200*