

Policy Type: **GOVERNANCE PROCESS**



Policy Title: **BOARD MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

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The Durham Regional Police Services Board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike, and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as Board members.

1. Board members will comply with the “Members of Police Services Boards – Code of Conduct”, Ontario Regulation 421/97, in its most current amended version.
2. Board members must be loyal to the citizens of Durham Region, unconflicted by loyalties to Board members, police service members, Board-staff, other organizations, and any personal interest as a citizen.
3. Board members must avoid conflict of interest with respect to their governance responsibilities:
  - a) There will be no self-dealing or business by a Board member with the Durham Regional Police Service. Members will annually disclose their involvements with other organizations, with vendors, or any associations that might be, or might reasonably be seen, as being a conflict;
  - b) When the Board is to decide upon an issue, about which a Board member has an unavoidable conflict of interest, that Board member shall absent herself or himself without comment from not only the vote, but also from the deliberation. Furthermore, there shall be no conversations with other Board members or staff on matters that may constitute a conflict of interest. [Interpretation of Ontario Regulation 421/97]
4. Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization:
  - a) Board members' interaction with the Chief of Police, or with staff, must recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly Board directed;
  - b) Board members' interaction with public, press or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the inability of any Board member to speak for the Board except to repeat explicitly stated Board decisions;

- c) Except for participation in Board deliberation about whether the Chief of Police has achieved reasonable interpretation of Board policy, Board members will not express individual judgments of performance of any members of the Durham Regional Police Service;
  - d) Board members will respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature.
5. Board members will be properly prepared for Board deliberation.