

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

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| 1) Name and Title of Person Submitting the Request: Amber Cardenas, Board Counsel | | 2) Date When Request Submitted: 10.4.2016 <small>Items will be considered late if submitted after 12:00 p.m. on the deadline date which is 8 business days before the meeting</small> | |
| 3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: | | | |
| 4) Meeting Date: | 5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Board Member Recusal | |
| 7) Place Item in: <input type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session | 8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Fill out Board Appearance Request) <input type="checkbox"/> No | 9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required: | |
| 10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: Review information regarding ethical and legal obligations to recuse on certain matters at meetings. | | | |
| 11) Authorization | | | |
| Signature of person making this request | | Date | |
| s/Amber Cardenas | | 10.4.2016 | |
| Supervisor (if required) | | Date | |
| Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda) | | Date | |
| Directions for including supporting documents: 1. This form should be attached to any documents submitted to the agenda. 2. Post Agenda Deadline items must be authorized by a Supervisor and the Policy Development Executive Director. 3. If necessary, provide original documents needing Board Chairperson signature to the Bureau Assistant prior to the start of a meeting. | | | |

Recusal

Board members are charged with making decisions that objectively represent the voice of the public, members of the profession, and those seeking entry into the profession. This means that as a board member you are not an advocate for a private interest group or professional association. As a public official, you are held to the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct, and should strive to avoid any relationship, activity or position that may influence the performance of your official duties as a board member.

It follows that you must recuse yourself from any conflict of interest that would compromise your neutrality in making decisions on the board. Ask yourself, “can I decide the issue, fairly and without bias, prejudice, or the impression or appearance of impropriety?” If not, you should recuse from the matter.

A conflict of interest is a type of interest that would result in some benefit, perceived benefit to you, or a bias or perceived bias in favor of or against a particular matter. Under any of the above circumstances, you may have an ethical duty to recuse. Factors to consider in deciding whether to recuse are whether the issue at hand involves a colleague, friend, family member or someone with a close business or social relationship. If yes, then it may be proper to recuse yourself from the matter. The more remote the relationship, professional association, or knowledge becomes, the further you may be removed from bias. You must consider whether you can render an impartial and unbiased decision.

Finally, when acting as a case advisor, you have a legal duty to recuse when the case involves a **contested matter** which is being deliberated and voted upon.

Examples include:

- Reviews of Administrative Warnings
- Petitions for Summary Suspension
- Complaints for Probable Cause (Med Board)
- Administrative Law Judge Proposed Decision and Orders (ALJ PDOs).

The Case Advisor **must** recuse him or herself and leave the room for any contested matter. Board Counsel should be present for contested cases to answer any legal questions and to provide information to the prosecutor should the case be remanded.

The Department of Safety and Professional Services greatly appreciates your willingness to serve the public and those in your profession. If there are any questions about whether a Board member should recuse, please contact Board Legal Counsel.