

Penalties for Violations Related to Lobbyist Registration

- a) Any person who violates any of the provisions of Article IV of the Ethics Ordinance or the Lobbyist related provisions of Article V of the Ordinance, shall be guilty of a business offense and shall be fined not more than \$10,000 for each violation. Every day that a report or registration is late shall constitute a separate violation. In determining the appropriate fine for each violation, the trier of fact in the county where the violation is prosecuted shall consider the scope of the entire Lobbying project, the nature of activities conducted during the time the Person was in violation, and whether or not the violation was intentional or unreasonable.
- b) In addition to the penalties provided for in subsection a), any Person convicted of any violation of any provision of Article IV or the Lobbyist related provision of Article V is prohibited for a period of three years from the date of such conviction from Lobbying.

There is a review process for any alleged violation and any person or entity accused of violating the MWRD Ethics Ordinance will be provided an opportunity to be heard. The Ethics Commission may investigate and conduct hearings regarding any alleged lobbyist registration or reporting violations. Once a complaint alleging a lobbyist registration violation is received, the Ethics Commission, within three business days, notifies the alleged violator. The Ethics Commission then notifies the parties of a date, time, and place for a meeting to determine the sufficiency of the complaint and determine whether probable cause exists. Thereafter, the violation may be prosecuted by either the State's Attorney's Office or the Attorney General of Illinois in the county where the offense was committed or in Sangamon County.