
If you are seeking an exemption on the grounds that you can not respond to one or more questions pertaining to your spouse in the financial disclosure form you must satisfy the Commission not only that you do not know the relevant information but also that you have made a bona fide attempt to obtain, and can not obtain the information. It is not sufficient to indicate that you and your spouse maintain and manage your income and/or assets separately or that you do not know the requisite information. You must detail the circumstances regarding your request(s) to your spouse to provide you with the necessary information, and the reasons for your spouse's refusal to provide the information to you. **You must provide this justification for your request in the form of a sworn, notarized statement** that must be annexed to this application. In your sworn statement you must identify, by number, each question in the financial disclosure form for which you are requesting an exemption.

In that statement, you must provide whatever information you do have or can obtain in response to all questions in the financial disclosure form that elicit information pertaining to your spouse. You must state whether your spouse was employed in the reporting year. If your spouse was employed you must report the name of his or her employer and, if the employment must be reported in response to question 5b, you must report the address of his or her employer. If your spouse was self employed, so indicate and report the address of his or her office or business. You must also supply such information as you have or can with diligence obtain, whether from documents or other knowledge or sources available to or obtainable by you.

You must indicate whether you and your spouse have filed joint federal, state or local tax returns this year or in the past five years. If you or your spouse have filed a joint return for the past calendar year, you must at least provide the relevant information available from that return. If you will be filing a joint return for the past calendar year, so indicate.

You must also indicate whether you or your spouse have filed any joint financial statement or application in the last five years, or if your spouse has filed a financial statement in connection with any legal proceeding in the last five years. If so, you must at least provide the relevant information available from those statements or applications.

If you have or can obtain the information necessary to respond to one or more questions in the financial disclosure form, but are seeking an exemption from reporting that information on the grounds that you, or your spouse, object(s) to providing the information, you must specify each question in the financial disclosure form for which you are requesting an exemption, and you must provide a complete response to the question(s) in a written statement that must be annexed to this application.

In that statement you must give specific reasons and justifications for that objection, and set forth the basis of your claim that the information will have no material bearing on the discharge of your official duties, giving specific reasons and justifications therefor. The mere statement that the information will have no material bearing on the discharge of your official duties will not be sufficient.
