Staff Memorandum 2015-05

If a lobbyist provides a meal to a legislator and the legislator’s spouse, child, or constituent, is the meal provided to the non-legislator reportable to the Ethics Commission?

Only the meal provided to the legislator is reported. Meals provided to family members or constituents that accompany the legislator are allowed and are not reported by the lobbyist. Please note, this exception applies only to meals. It does not apply to gifts provided to family members of a legislator for infrequently occurring occasions of personal significance. In addition, this exception does not change the requirement of Ethics Rule 5.6 that states, “In no event shall a … legislative lobbyist or a lobbyist principal indirectly provide anything of value to any state officer or employee by providing a thing of value to a family member of the state officer or employee…”