

Amendments to CIRM Employee COI Policy

Rafael Aguirre-Sacasa General Counsel Governance Subcommittee Meeting December 4, 2025





Employee COI Policy – Key 2025 Amendments

Clarified Definitions:

Defines "immediate family member" consistent with the Political Reform Act.

Expanded Prohibitions:

- Broader restrictions tied to employee/family employment at applicant institutions.
- Definition of Financial Benefit aligned to PRA (direct or indirect).
- 3-year lookback for research collaborators, mentors, and trainees.
- Limits employee involvement in application preparation beyond public information.
- Updated investment restrictions: now includes companies with ≥20% research budget in cell/gene therapy; exempts diversified mutual funds.



Employee COI Policy – Key 2025 Amendments (cont.)

Professional Activities:

 Allows uncompensated voluntary clinical faculty roles if no financial benefit and no link to CIRM-funded projects.

New Disclosure & Compliance Framework:

- Initial and annual disclosure requirement.
- Ongoing 5-day reporting obligation for new conflicts.
- Immediate recusal pending Legal review.
- Formal Legal Department determination and documentation of decision.
- Disciplinary consequences for failure to disclose or comply.



Requested Action

CIRM requests that Governance Subcommittee recommends ICOC approval of the CIRM Employee Conflict of Interest Policy.



Thank You!

Please visit us at: www.cirm.ca.gov

Questions?

