

## **West Virginia Executive Branch Privacy Tip**

### **West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act**

#### **QUESTION:**

**Why should state employees be concerned about other peoples' confidential information at work?**

#### **ANSWER:**

All West Virginia public officials and employees are prohibited from knowingly and improperly disclosing any confidential information acquired in the course of performing official duties.

Officials and employees are also prohibited from using confidential information to further one's personal interests or the interests of another.

Individuals found guilty of violating the Act are guilty of a misdemeanor and can be sentenced to not more than six months in jail or fined no more than one thousand dollars or both.

Supervisors should continuously educate employees about the importance of identifying information that is confidential under State or federal law, rule or policy, and the proper uses of confidential information.

**West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act**  
W. Va. Code § 6B-1-1 *et seq.*