



Department of Transformation and Shared Services Office of Personnel Management

Policy Title: Political Freedom

Policy Number: 19

Authority: Ark. Code Ann. § 21-1-501 *et seq.*

Effective Date: May 20, 2021

Elected public official: The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, Attorney General, Commissioner of State Lands, member of the Arkansas Senate and member of the Arkansas House of Representatives.

Public employee: Any person providing services for the State of Arkansas, a county, a municipal corporation, or any other political subdivision of this state for which compensation is paid.

Public employer: The State of Arkansas and each political subdivision of the State of Arkansas.

It is unlawful to prohibit a public employee from communicating with an elected public official concerning matters related to the employee's job, except for matters exempted under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. A public employee shall not be prohibited from exercising a right or privilege under the Freedom of Information Act.

A public employee shall not be subjected to discipline, threats of discipline, reprimands, either oral or written, or have notations placed in their personnel file disciplining or reprimanding them or otherwise be discriminated against because the public employee exercised their political freedom right under state law.

A public employee who has intentionally made untrue allegations to an elected official concerning matters related to the employee's job may be subject to discipline.

A person who intentionally violates this is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.