

COUNCIL OF ETHICAL ORGANIZATIONS & HEALTH ETHICS TRUST

BACKGROUND:

The Council of Ethical Organizations (“Council”) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting ethical and legal conduct in business, government and the professions. The Council pursues this purpose through educational programs, research and publications on best practices, and program development efforts. The Council is the recognized leader in bringing practical knowledge to bear on ethics and compliance issues affecting organizations.

The goal of every Council effort is improving overall organizational effectiveness by integrating ethics and legal compliance into an organization’s processes and culture. Our principals have addressed ethics and compliance issues in complex situations since 1980.

Related entities include the Compliance Resource Group, Inc. (“CRG”), the Foundation for Ethical Organizations and the Health Ethics Trust, which is an interest group of Council members from all sectors of healthcare dedicated to advancing ethical conduct through shared information. CRG applies Council research and knowledge to specific issues for organizations and professional groups (see enclosed CRG Fact Sheet). The Foundation for Ethical Organizations supports ethics-related causes and activities, with a commitment to programs affecting youth.

Council activities and services include:

- **HEALTH ETHICS TRUST:** In response to growing ethics and compliance concerns in healthcare, the Council formed the Health Ethics Trust (“Trust”) in 1995. The purpose of the Trust is to assist healthcare organizations committed to ethical and legal conduct through educational programs, research, and shared best practices.
- **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:** Council programs deliver practical skills and information to those with ethics and compliance responsibilities. Programs are limited in enrollment and are conducted by individuals with senior corporate, governmental and advisory experience. Our programs provide the opportunity to interact with corporate and governmental leaders in a collaborative environment that is always vendor-free.
- **BEST PRACTICES:** The Best Practices process is an established peer review process identifying best practices in key compliance areas. Identified best practices are presented at the annual Healthcare Best Compliance Practices Forum, the only national event in which healthcare leaders, top government officials, compliance professionals and selected legal and academic experts meet in a vendor free environment to address practical compliance concerns. The lifeblood of the Forum - and the reason for its continued growth - is that it identifies actual compliance best practices that have been independently tested by leading organizations and reviewed by peers.
- **PUBLICATIONS:** The Council regularly publishes an in-house publication and has authored several other publications designed to provide advice and practical guidance to compliance professionals. These include:

Best Practice Standards for Compliance Programs: A Manual for Compliance Professionals is a manual outlining Best Practice Standards by which healthcare compliance programs and their component parts can be judged as not only meeting and exceeding all external requirements, but as equal to or better than the best known compliance program practices. The target we are aiming at is moving, as we have learned from running the Healthcare Best Compliance Practices Forum over the past decades.

Compliance Case Study Library is a collection of articles and training tools for those charged with healthcare compliance training. The heart of the book is a collection of case studies on every major compliance topic, for any audience, and from every major sector including: providers, suppliers, health plans, labs, pharmaceuticals, and academic medical centers.

The Hotline and Investigations Handbook is a seminal Council resource that has been recently revised, updated and newly titled to reflect the additional experience gained by the Council from working with front line compliance professionals on hotline operations. The new handbook includes expanded narrative treatment of the various handbook sections. It also reflects various regulatory or legislative changes since its original publication that potentially affect hotline operations. Finally, the handbook contains a new preface by Council President Mark Pastin.

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- **BENCHMARKING: RESEARCH ON CURRENT COMPLIANCE PRACTICES:** On an ongoing basis, as part of the Healthcare Best Compliance Practices process the Council surveys compliance professionals and other leaders regarding compliance program activities such as employee training, physician training, background checks, hotline practices, etc. The Council publishes the results on its web site and in subsequent issues of the Pastin Report.
- **SPEAKERS BUREAU:** Council principals and associated speakers provide keynote and session presentations. We provide broad topic coverage from general and motivational topics to specific ethics and compliance issues and topics.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

COUNCIL OF ETHICAL ORGANIZATIONS
HEALTH ETHICS TRUST

214 SOUTH PAYNE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

TEL: 703-683-7916

E-MAIL: DRREARDON@CORPORATEETHICS.COM