



Public Officials Liability

Claim Examples

- ▶ An economic development district held a monthly meeting and did not notify the general public of the date and time. Decisions made at this meeting affected fee assessments that would be levied on the property owners in the district. The minutes from the meeting were never released to the public. This violated the laws for public meetings as well as the bylaws of the district. When the district members learned of the meeting and new tax assessment they collectively sued the district for violation of the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meeting Act.
- ▶ A sewer district identified a glitch in the computerized tax roll system for properties located within the district. They noted that the tax rate for sewer charges was not properly calculating for the past two years. After fixing the system, the district sent a letter to the residents along with a new assessment for the uncollected taxes. The residents sued the district for negligence and breach of duty.
- ▶ A group of district employees would end their day by gathering around a fellow employee's desk to look at the latest daily swimsuit model at a new website featuring bikini styles. A female employee stopped by during one of these gatherings and noticed the pictures. She then returned to her desk on the other side of the room. Although she never saw the photos after that day, she would see the employees gather around the desk each day and hear off-color remarks in relation to the photos. She later sued the district for a hostile work environment.
- ▶ A donor made a large contribution to the municipal park for the construction of a new public playground. Instead of building a new playground, the park felt the money would be better spent cleaning up the existing land. The donor sued for misappropriation of funds. The damages included return of the full contribution as well as interest. Since the majority of the funds had already been spent, the park was financially unable to return the entire donation.
- ▶ The executive director of a local water district began "borrowing" money from the district to cover personal losses. The executive director was successful in covering up the transactions for almost a year until the district was finally forced to declare bankruptcy. A bank, which had just renewed a large outstanding note, sued the board for failure to supervise and the individual directors, alleging breach of duty of care and misrepresentation of financial information.



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