



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

Ethics in Government

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First goal

Community Chest

**GET OUT
OF JAIL, FREE**



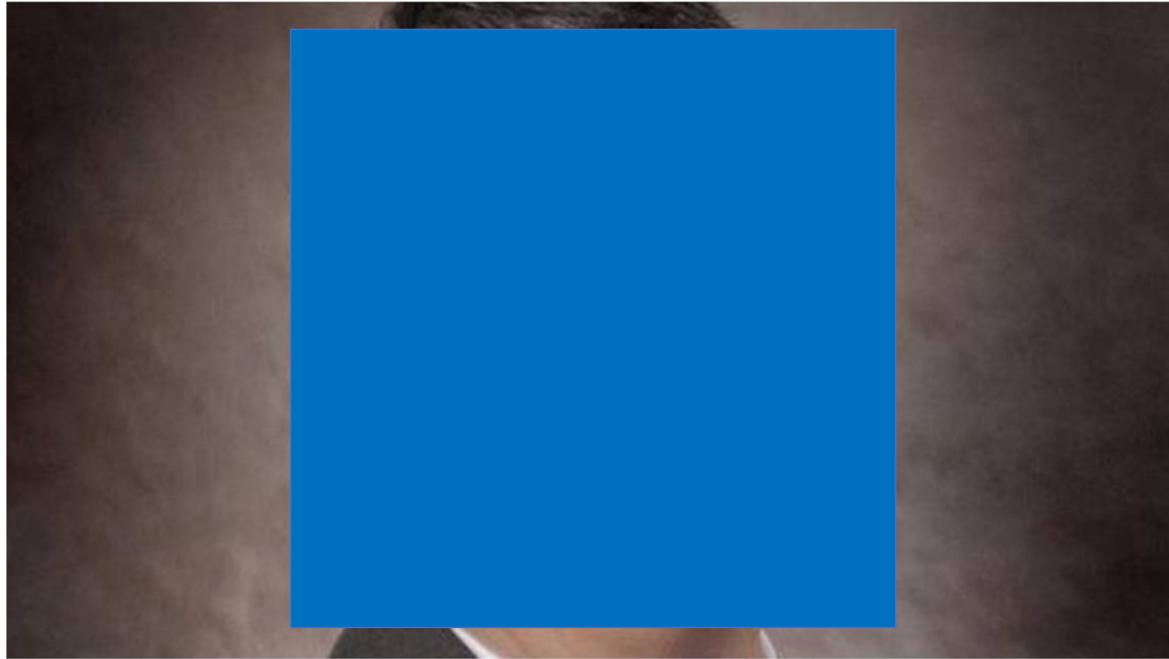
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Please don't end up on a slide...



August 2017



CRIME

 County treasurer charged with July 2018
misusing public funds



BY CYNTHIA SEWELL
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 County Treasurer  charged with seven felony counts of misuse of public funds.



Rita Crundwell



Most common ethics/corruption problems in Idaho*

- Embezzlement of public funds
 - Dipping into petty cash
 - Using government purchasing cards for personal use
 - Depositing checks into a personal account
 - Submitting false invoices to be paid to personal account
- Open Meetings/Executive Sessions

How Ethics Problems Happen

Information Problems

- “Sector Confusion”
- Didn’t know policy
- Believed they had implicit permission

Reasoning Problems

- Ends justify the means
- Justifications

Loyalty Problems

- Right v Right choices

Information Problems

- “Sector confusion”

open meetings

open records

disclosure requirements

receipt of gifts

accounting for expenses

Thinking problems

- Ends justify the means

“working around” bothersome rules or laws to
get a good thing done

Protecting the jurisdiction or colleague by
covering something up

Thinking problems

- Justifications

“We aren’t paid enough so...”

“That’s how they do it at the state, the city, etc.”

“That’s how we’ve always done it”

“Just this one time...”

Desperation?

- Addictions: gambling, drugs, drinking, shopping...

The Dangers of the “Most Trusted Employee”

- The perpetrator of many embezzlements are the person everyone trusts.
- Sometimes the only person who understands a complex system for money and purchasing.
- Busy elected officials don't have time (or understanding?) to double check the employee's work.
- Jim McNall: “hire people you don't trust so you watch them like a hawk...”

Title 74: Transparent and Ethical Government

- Ch. 1: Public Records
- Ch. 2: Open Meetings
- Ch. 4: Ethics in Government Act (conflict of interest process)
- Ch. 5: Prohibition Against Contracts with Officers
- Ch. 6: Public Integrity in Elections

Contracts

- 74-501. Officers not to be interested in contracts.

“Members of the legislature, state, county, city, district and precinct officers, must not be interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity, or by any body or board of which they are members.”

Nepotism

- **Bribery & Corrupt Influence Act—Idaho Code Title 18, Chapter 13**
 - **Nepotism**
 - **No person related to a Commissioner or hiring person by blood or marriage within the 2nd degree can be paid to work for the County.**
 - **Relatives within the 2nd degree include: spouses, parents, siblings, children, grandparents, grandchildren, cousins, aunts & uncles, nieces & nephews.**

Ethics Resources

Idaho Attorney General's Manuals

- Ethics in Government
 - Open Meetings
 - Public Records

Whistleblowing

- State and Federal laws protect whistleblowers
- Government employee policy should include process/policy on whistleblowing
 - Who do you tell?
 - What is the process?

Thank You

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