

POLST Illinois Conflict of Interest Policy Guiding Principle:

POLST Illinois may accept gifts, engage with, and accept support from any entity committed to its mission, vision, essential values, and core programmatic objectives. POLST Illinois will not enter any engagement that compromises its integrity, violates any federal, state, or local law, is financially unsound, could expose POLST Illinois or its parent organization the Illinois Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (IL-HPCO) to unacceptable liability or other adverse consequences, or is contrary to the goals of POLST Illinois or IL-HPCO.

Definitions:

- “Engagement” includes acceptance of: grants; contracts and other transactions that provide for mutual legal obligations; and donations, including money, property, in-kind contributions, and all other kinds of support. Engagement also includes strategic partnerships, sponsor recognition, product certification or endorsement, and cause marketing. Engagement does not include routine commercial transactions with vendors or the sale of goods in the open market, nor collaborating with other entities to respond to a legislative or regulatory issue. If there are doubts about whether a relationship would be covered by this policy, the question should be referred to the POLST IL Committee and IL-HPCO Board at the earliest possible opportunity.
- “Entity” means an individual, a corporation, a business trust, a trust, a partnership, an association, a government, a governmental subdivision or agency or any other legal entity.

Review of engagement opportunities:

The POLST Illinois Committee is responsible for protecting National POLST and IL-HPCO and approving all engagement opportunities. The POLST Illinois Committee may authorize in advance some categories of engagement but will otherwise approve all other engagement opportunities on a case-by-case basis; the POLST IL Committee chairperson and at least 2 other committee members may review and approve engagement opportunities on behalf of the full POLST IL Committee.

If a proposed engagement involves a for-profit commercial health care related entity or an organization controlled by such entity; or whose primary purpose is to represent such entities; or a committee member perceives a conflict of interest or potential adverse consequences to a proposed engagement, then approval by the full POLST IL Committee and the IL-HPCO Board is required. Any such proposed engagement must first be discussed with the Executive Director of IL-HPCO. The Executive Director and IL-HPCO Board will review all such engagement.

Assessment of engagement opportunities:

The following factors will guide the review of engagements:

- The nature of the engagement, including fiscal and programmatic control, level of investment, reasonability of conditions or restrictions, and any unusual financial or legal risks.



- The extent to which the engagement is likely to support and advance the Guiding Principle stated above, provide support for important programs and, if applicable, lead to a significant, productive relationship.
- The extent to which the engagement is likely to affect the independence, reputation, or integrity of POLST IL and IL-HPCO and the availability of methods to reduce the risk of any adverse impact.

i. Mission: The mission of the POLST Taskforce is to guide the development, acceptance, implementation, and evaluation of “Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment” (POLST) as a vital component of advance care planning for Illinoisans, in accordance with Illinois statutes.

ii. Vision: The vision of POLST is to allow people with life-limiting illnesses to state their preferences regarding end-of-life care and be assured that those wishes will be honored by medical professionals across all settings.