

Department of Finance and Administration
Office of Personnel Management

Policy Title: **Political Freedom**

Policy Number: **19**

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

Revised: **July 1, 2017**

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 for a state employee to be prohibited 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, or from exercising a right or privilege under the Freedom of Information Act.

It is unlawful for a state employee to be subjected to discipline, threats of discipline, reprimands, either oral or written, or notations in their personnel files disciplining or reprimanding or otherwise be discriminated against, because the employee exercised the right to communicate with an elected public official or exercised a right or privilege under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

A state 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 a provision is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.