



*Who is affected by Florida's
new Ethics requirements?*

Find out inside!

Understanding

Florida's New

Ethics

Requirement

Did you know?

All active Florida licensees are now required by state law to take at least four hours of Ethics CPE each re-establishment period (i.e. the two-year reporting period beginning July 1st and ending June 30th).



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ethics

[eth'iks]
plural noun

1 {usu. treated as pl.}
a set of moral principles,
esp. ones relating to or
affirming a specified
group, field, or form of
conduct.

• the moral correctness
of specified conduct.

2 {usu. treated as sing.}
the branch of knowledge
that deals with moral
principles.

adjective *rare*

of or relating to moral
principles or the branch of
knowledge dealing with
these.

ORIGIN Late Middle
English (denoting ethical
moral philosophy; also
used attributively): from
Old French *éthique*, from
Latin *ēthica* (the science
of morals, based on Aristotle
(see ETHICS)).

Who is affected?

The group of CPAs most immediately affected by the new ethics requirement are those whose CPE reporting period ends on June 30, 2006. However, since the ethics requirement applies to all active licensees, CPAs with a June 30, 2007, reporting deadline also may take the course now.

The requirement includes CPAs who are practicing in the public or private sector. CPAs with an inactive license are not required to submit CPE in order to maintain an inactive license. However, if an inactive licensee reactivates their license, they will be required to submit four hours of Ethics CPE for each re-establishment period that their license was inactive (beginning with the re-establishment ending June 30, 2006).

The new CPE credit hour requirements for active Florida licensed CPAs are:

- 80 hours over a two-year reporting period;
- Minimum 20 hours Accounting & Auditing;
- Maximum 20 hours Behavioral;
- Minimum four hours Ethics; and
- No limitation or requirement for Technical Business.

Specific language regarding the new ethics requirement is found in s. 473.312(1)(c), F.S. and Florida Board of Accountancy (BOA) Rules 61H1-33.003 to 61H1-33.00342, Florida Administrative Code.

How Can You Satisfy Your Ethics Requirement?

To fulfill the ethics requirement, a CPA may take either a four-hour course, or two two-hour courses using the same provider or a self-study course. Regardless of which option a licensee chooses, the ethics instruction must be received from a provider that has been pre-approved by the Florida Board of Accountancy (BOA).

The Florida Institute of CPAs has been approved by the BOA to offer this course and has several opportunities to help you fulfill this requirement. For the most current FICPA ethics information, please visit www.ficpa.org/ethics.

FICPA Ethics Provider Number: 3461

When Must You Complete the Requirement?

All active Florida licensees must complete all four hours of the ethics requirement prior to taking the laws and rules exam. Two-hour courses can be taken over two years as long as they are taken within the same reporting period.

For more information on the ethics requirement, please visit the Department of Business & Professional Regulation's Web site, www.myflorida.com/dbpr/cpa/.

