



United States
Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500
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March 17, 2005
DO-05-007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Designated Agency Ethics Officials

FROM: Marilyn L. Glynn
Acting Director

SUBJECT: Increased Gifts and Travel Reimbursements Reporting
Thresholds for Financial Disclosure Reports

The Office of Government Ethics (OGE) has issued final rule amendments that in pertinent part revise the executive branch financial disclosure regulation to increase, retroactively effective to January 1, 2005, the thresholds for reporting of gifts, reimbursements and travel expenses for the public and confidential report systems. See [70 Federal Register 12111-12112 \(March 11, 2005\)](#). The new aggregation threshold for the reporting of gifts and reimbursements received from any one source is "more than \$305"; items worth "\$122 or less" do not need to be counted towards that overall threshold.¹ These increases are tied under the Ethics in Government Act and OGE regulations to the increase last January by the General Services Administration of "minimal value" for purposes of the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act to "\$305 or less" for the three-year period 2005-2007. See [70 Federal Register 2317-2318 \(pt. V\) \(January 12, 2005\)](#).

The calendar year 2004 Public Financial Disclosure Reports (SF 278s) due this coming May are not affected by this change, because the new gifts and reimbursements thresholds only became effective as of the beginning of 2005. However, any newly filed termination public reports will be affected for the portion of 2005 covered. For Confidential Financial Disclosure Reports (OGE Form 450s), OGE has administratively determined that departments and agencies can extend for their filers the new higher thresholds for the current reporting period in its

¹ The prior reporting amounts were more than \$285 for the aggregation threshold and \$114 or less for excepted items.

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entirety (October 2004 through September 2005) in order to relieve the reporting burden and to promote ease of administration.

Departments and agencies should promptly notify their report filers of these new thresholds. OGE will include the new thresholds in future editions of the two report forms.