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## Summary of the Ontario Government Ethics Law and Regulations (October 29, 2019)

As [summarized on the website](#) of Ontario Integrity Commissioner David Wake, ministers' staff, including the Secretary to the Cabinet who is the Premier's deputy minister, are subject to various ethics measures by the *Public Service of Ontario Act* (sections [2](#), [4](#), [66 to 69](#) and [94 to 98](#)) and a regulation under that Act ([O.Reg. 382/07](#)).

[Section 6](#) of the regulation prohibits giving “preferential treatment to any person or entity” and requires ministers' staff to “endeavour to avoid creating the appearance that preferential treatment is being given to a person or entity...”

For the Secretary to the Cabinet, different parts of the *Act* apply ([sections 56-65](#)) and a different regulation ([O.Reg. 381/07](#)) but it has the same [section 6](#) rules prohibiting preferential treatment, as set out on the [website](#) of Ontario Conflict of Interest Commissioner Sydney Linden.

[Section 67](#) of the *Act* requires Premier Ford and other ministers to ensure their staff are familiar with the ethics rules, and to promote ethical conduct by his staff.

Premier Ford has the power to penalize his staff for violations of the ethics rules under [section 70](#) of the *Act*.