

# **General Counsel Services**

**Presented by: Sam Light, Deputy Executive Director / General Counsel** 



### **General Counsel Services for Members**

- Elected and appointed official trainings (e.g., public official roles, open meetings, ethics, governing body best practices, public hearing procedures, etc.).
- Staff trainings (e.g., respectful workplace conduct, contracting essentials, supervisory skills, etc.).
- Articles, webinars, manuals, publications, and other materials.
- Review and comment on drafts of members' policies, contracts, and other documents from CIRSA's risk management perspective.
- Access to sample/template policies and provisions on common issues (e.g., liability waivers, employee handbook provisions, executive session script, etc.)



# **CIRSA Liability Hotline**



Do you have questions about liability risks related to:

- Employee Termination and Discipline Issues
- · Personnel Policies or Personnel Management
- · Public Works, Parks and Rec or Police Liability
- Conducting Quasi-Judicial Proceedings
- · Zoning or Land Use Liability
- · Drug Testing Policies
- · Marijuana Related Issues

Call CIRSA's Liability Risk Management Hotline and Sam Light, CIRSA General Counsel, can assist. The Hotline is a free service to CIRSA Property/Casualty members to help you identify, manage and avoid potential claims, and assist with your municipal liability questions. CONTACT THE LIABILITY RISK MANAGEMENT HOTLINE IF:

- you're considering taking an employment action that could lead to liability;
- you'd like a policy or contract document reviewed from CIRSA's liability risk management perspective;
- you'd like help identifying options for handling a potential claim situation;
- you need to get up-to-speed on a current municipal liability issue; or
- you just need to bounce an idea or issue off a neutral source.

Please Note: At CIRSA's discretion, a courtesy contact may be made by CIRSA to the member's chief administrative officer and/or legal counsel to inform them of any Hotline inquiry. The Hotline is not a substitute for legal advice from the member's municipal atorney.

To make an inquiry, or if you have questions, please contact General Counsel Sam Light at 720-605-8002 or 1-800-228-7136, or saml@cirsa.org.



#### **CIRSA Liability Hotline**

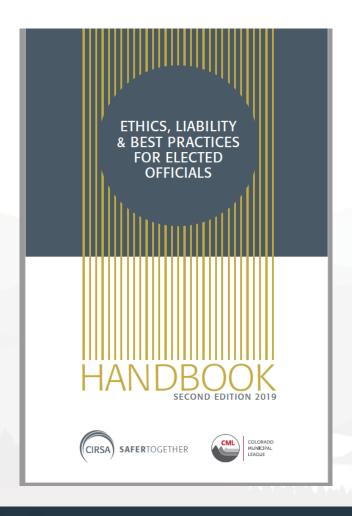
1-800-228-7136 or 720-605-8002

The Liability Hotline is an additional resource for CIRSA members for risk management consultation and is not a substitute for legal advice from your entity's own attorney.

https://www.cirsa.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/Liability-Hotline-2020.pdf



### Resources



CIRSA Elected Officials Resources: <a href="https://www.cirsa.org/safety-training/elected-officials/">https://www.cirsa.org/safety-training/elected-officials/</a>

**CIRSA Elected Officials Handbook:** 

https://www.cirsa.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/06/EthicsLiabilityBestPractic esHandbookForElectedOfficials.pdf

Law Enforcement Information & Resources: <a href="https://www.cirsa.org/law-enforcement/">https://www.cirsa.org/law-enforcement/</a>

The CIRSA Blog: <a href="https://www.cirsa.org/blog/">https://www.cirsa.org/blog/</a>

Orientation Webinars: <a href="https://www.cirsa.org/join-cirsa/cirsa-orientation/">https://www.cirsa.org/join-cirsa/cirsa-orientation/</a>



#### Resources



Published by the CIRSA General Counsel's Office

SAFER TOGETHER

Check Your Website's Accessibility for ADA Compliance-A Claim May Be Just Clicks Away

#### THE CIRSA BLOG

Handling Interactions with Angry Citizens<sup>1</sup>





The Law of Civility

Presented by Sam Light, CIRSA General Counsel



## Tips for Every Member to Effectively Manage Liability Risks

- Develop and embrace an appropriate organizational climate. At every level and in every area of your operations, your organizational culture and climate significantly affects your entity's risks.
- Commit to "best practices" that help further success and, in turn, reduce liability risks:
  - Have appropriate and up-to-date policies and procedures in place--and insist folks follow them.
  - Provide frequent and appropriate training throughout the organization.
  - Have your radar on to spot potentially risky/hazardous practices, conditions, and situations. When you spot them—address them promptly!



## Tips for Every Member to Effectively Manage Liability Risks

- As public entities, commit to core "good government" principals:
  - Openness and transparency.
  - Evenhandedness and fundamental fairness.
  - Civility and mutuality of respect.
- Assign appropriate staff to address and manage claims and claim situations.
- Seek assistance and use resources available to you. Contact CIRSA as needed or desired. We are safer together!



### **Conclusion**

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or if we can be of assistance:

Sam Light, Deputy Executive Director/General Counsel

saml@cirsa.org 720-605-8002

#### **On-line scheduling tool:**

Online Scheduler for Sam Light

Schedule a member training or
Liability Hotline consultation

Access the Online Scheduler



**CIRSA Office – Main Number** 303.757.5475 or 800.228.7136

