



Bribery and Section 720.3033, F.S.

The state of Florida takes bribery pretty seriously, so much so that by statute, officers, directors or managers of homeowner's associations are forbidden from accepting goods or services from anyone. Of course the law isn't as simple as that and includes exceptions.

Pursuant to section 720.3033, F.S., an officer, director, or manager may not solicit, offer to accept, or accept any good or service of value for which consideration has not been provided for his or her benefit or for the benefit of a member of his or her immediate family from any person providing or proposing to provide goods or services to the association. Without consideration, which is the quid pro quo of any transaction, the good or service appears improper, so the state requires licensed professionals and board members and officers to avoid it; however, an officer, director, or manager may accept food to be consumed at a business meeting with a value of less than \$25 per individual or a service or good received in connection with trade fairs or education programs. That means you can keep that sticky cell phone holder, stress ball or ball point pen given out at a business event, and if someone offers to cater a business meeting that's fine too, so long as the dollar limit per person is adhered to.

Any officer or director who violates section 720.3033 must be immediately removed from office. That's a pretty stiff penalty, further evidencing how seriously the Florida Legislature takes any form of enticement or corruption.

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