



Dragon Legal Di-

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

MAY 2018

CONTENTS

- ♦ **WHAT'S A GIFT AND WHAT CAN YOU ACCEPT?**
- ♦ **GOING AWAY AND RETIREMENT GIFTS**
- ♦ **CONTACT US**

Gift Guide

PCS season is upon, and as you all know, that means it is time for going away and retirement gifts! Here are some guidelines about what qualifies as a gift, how much a gift can cost, and when you can accept a gift.

What's a Gift?

What counts as a gift?

Gifts are any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other item having monetary value. It also includes services, like training, transportation, local travel, and lodgings and meals, whether they're provided in kind, by ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement.

What doesn't count as a gift?

- Coffee, donuts and similar modest items of food and refreshments when they're not part of a meal.
- Greeting cards and items of little intrinsic value (plaques, certificates, etc.).
- Rewards and prizes in contests open to the public.
- Commercial discounts available to the public or to all government or military personnel. It does NOT apply to any discounts based on rank or position.

General Rules About Gift Acceptance

You can accept:

- Gifts of \$20 or less (and no more than \$50 worth of gifts from any one source per year).
- Gifts based on a personal relationship.

Bottom line: Always ask yourself — would accepting this gift undermine, or appear to undermine, government integrity?

SCAN THE QR CODE



Retirement and Going Away Gifts

There are lots of rules about when you can and cannot accept or give a gift to another employee. Here are the basics you need to know as PCS season rolls around:

General rule: Basically, you **cannot**:

- Give a gift or make a donation toward a gift for a superior; OR
- Solicit a contribution from another employee for a gift for a superior, AND
- Superiors cannot accept a gift from lower-paid employees (unless a personal relationship exists).

Relevant Exception: Given on infrequent occasions, such as PCS or retirement, more valuable gifts can be given! However, even these gifts have limitations:

- Such gifts must be limited to \$300 in value for the whole donating group (everyone contributing to the gift).
 - No one may be asked to donate more than \$10 toward the gift, **but** people may donate as much as they would like toward the gift on their own if they volunteer to do so.

For example, if Maj Snuffy, as the Director of Operations, would like to donate \$50 towards the retirement of his Squadron Commander, that is fine as long as no one asks him for more than \$10.

Bottom line: Different rules apply for PCS and retirement, but limitations **DO** exist! If you are unsure please call the legal office for clarification!

CONTACT US



81 TRW/JA
 Sablich Center
 2d Floor, Suite 227
 Phone: 591-8601

For will worksheets or Powers of Attorney please visit our website below.

Don't forget to send us or bring in your ticket number!

<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>

Wills Appointments

Walk-Ins Only
Tues (0830-1000)

Legal Assistance

Walk-Ins Only
Wed (0930-1030)
Thur (1400-1500)

Powers of Attorney & Notaries

WALK-INS
Mon-Fri (0800-1630)