

WFI BLOG RULES

January 9, 2009

1. COMMUNICATIONS WITH WFI STAFF

Communications between a single Board member and one or more WFI staff is not considered a “meeting” of the Board under the Florida Sunshine Law. However, staff cannot be used as a “conduit” or liaison between two or more Board members to discuss a subject which is, or may foreseeably be, before the Board without violating the Sunshine Law. (Staff can communicate and coordinate administrative matters, such as scheduling meetings, between the various Board members.)

2 BOARD MEMBER’S ONE-WAY COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BLOG (AND NOT TO OTHER BOARD MEMBERS)

Florida case law (and Florida Attorney General Opinions) supports the use of a Board member’s written report to inform other Board members of a subject which is to be (or may foreseeably be) discussed at a formal Board meeting, an “informational memorandum” or a “position paper,” (if a one-way communication) as not constituting a “meeting” and therefore not violating the Sunshine Law. This would appear to also include third-party generated communications such as newspaper or Internet articles, professional papers or reports, photographs, etc. The caveat here is that any RESPONSIVE communications from other Board members, which discusses or otherwise “conducts business” of the Board outside of a properly-noticed, public meeting, would be a Sunshine Law violation.

3. BOARD MEMBERS’ MEETINGS HELD ON THE BLOG

Any two or more Board members may hold a meeting on the blog. Before being scheduled, the meeting shall be approved by the Chair, according to the WFI bylaws. WFI staff will arrange for the contacting of other Board members, the scheduling of the meeting, the proper public notice required, arrangements for public access to the blog and the recording of minutes as required by the Sunshine Law.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE BLOG RULES

It is recognized by all participants that this is a new method of communication and a new form for meetings and that these rules may be freely amended as use of the blog requires so as to maximize the effectiveness and efficiencies of this medium while at the same time comply both with the letter and the spirit of the Sunshine Law.