



Minnesota Senate Policies for Senators and Staff

1.25 Code of Conduct

As members and employees of the Senate, we are entrusted with the welfare, property, security and safety of the people we serve and of the people of Minnesota.

- We will treat each other and the public fairly, equally, and with dignity and respect.
- We will be courteous to the public and respectful of the institution.

The President of the Senate will receive written, signed complaints from any member or employee of the Senate or from the public regarding disrespectful treatment by a member or employee of the Senate or by another member of the public.

Please call the Office of the President of the Senate with comments or questions.

Committees:

- The committee chair is responsible for order, decorum, and quiet.
- All members of the committee are responsible for enforcing respectful treatment of each other and the public.
- The chair or vice chair should start and end hearings on time.
- All nonconference committee meetings must adjourn by midnight unless two-thirds of the members present vote to suspend this requirement. (Rule 12.4, Permanent Rules of the Senate.)
- All speakers should request permission from and address their comments to the chair.
- Respectfully address people giving testimony as Mr., Ms. or their title.
- Allow those who travel long distances to testify first.
- Be sensitive and attentive to persons testifying and to their concerns.

- A Senator should not use insulting or personally or socially offensive language when addressing members of the public.
- A Senator should not speak impertinently, attack the motives of any Senator who proposes or advocates a particular position, use indecent language or other disorderly words or refer to another Senator by name in a disparaging way.
- A Senator should not interrupt another member.
- Private conversations should be held away from the committee table.

- Beverages are permitted at the committee table but not food.

Adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration, April 27, 1994; revised June 1999.
Permanent rules adopted March 5, 2001, revised March 18, 2014.