

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN THE SUNSHINE



Meredith Charbula

Director, Legal Division



Office of the State Attorney
for the **Fourth Judicial Circuit**

Melissa Nelson

Serving Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties

THREE KEY COMPONENTS OF SUNSHINE LAW





1. Meetings must be open to the public;
2. Reasonable notice of meetings and an opportunity to attend must be given; and
3. Minutes of the meetings must be taken and promptly recorded.



EASY WAYS TO VIOLATE THE SUNSHINE LAW



- Conduct informal, private, in-person discussions between two or more members of the JJAC about business that has, will, or may come before the JJAC



- Circulate an e-mail to other members of the JJAC for comment, feedback, or a vote concerning JJAC business;

* Informational only e-mail is OK



- Discuss JJAC business over lunch;
- Discuss in public, deliberate in private;
- Deliberate in public, discuss in private;
- Private phone conversations between two or more members about JJAC business.

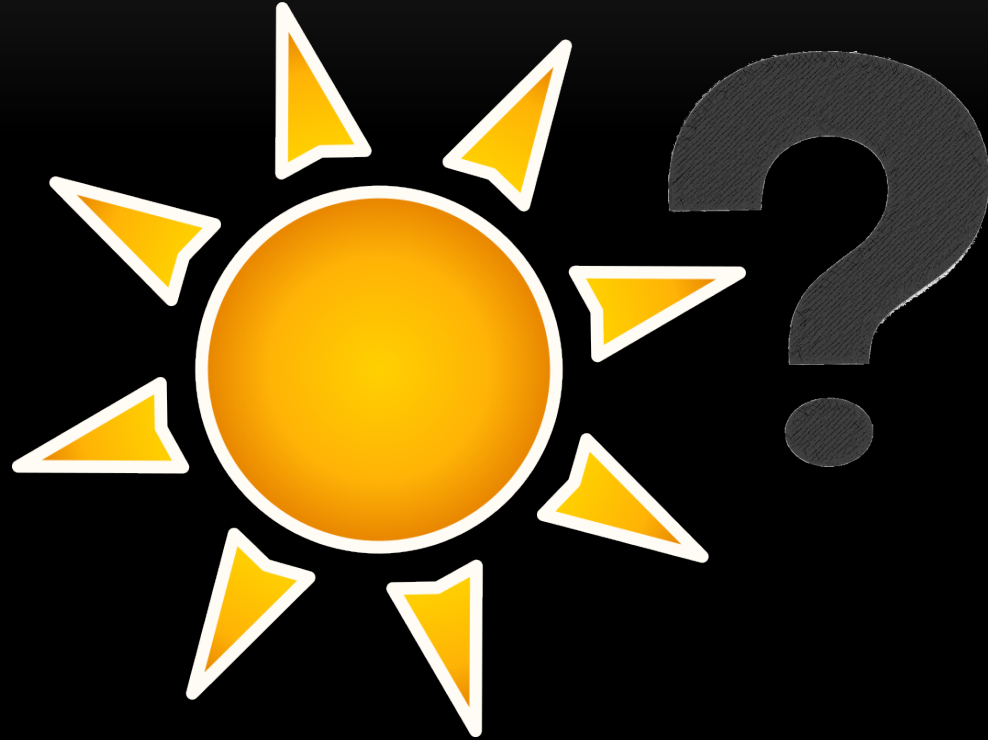


CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING FLORIDA'S SUNSHINE LAW



- A knowing violation of the Sunshine Law is a 2nd degree misdemeanor;
 - Public officials may be suspended or removed from office;
 - Even inadvertent violation is a non-criminal infraction punishable by a fine up to \$500.
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WHEN IN DOUBT



- ASK FOR PERMISSION RATHER THAN FORGIVENESS;
 - REVIEW THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE MANUAL PROVIDED BY FLORIDA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL;
 - WHEN IN DOUBT --- ASK.
 - CONTACT US AT ANYTIME FOR QUESTIONS:
 - Meredith Charbula, Director, Legal Division
 - (904) 255-2922
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