

**Am I limited in my dealing with the United States Government in my personal capacity?**

- Yes. You cannot represent anyone (other than yourself) before a Federal agency or Federal court, which mean that, unless an exception applies, you cannot contact a Federal agency or court on behalf of anyone else in order to influence Government action (including by serving as an expert witness). This restriction even applies to contacting a Federal agency on behalf of a family member. You also cannot receive payments based on the representational activities of others before a Federal agency or Federal court (such as from partnership distributions if you are a partner). You can, however, contact Congress on behalf of someone else.

Are there exceptions to these restrictions?

- Yes; you can represent:
 - another employee in a personnel dispute (if you not paid and it does not conflict with your Federal duties);
 - a spouse, parent, child, estate, or trust (if only if you receive prior approval through the Ethics Law and Programs Division); and
 - a Federal employee organization (in some circumstances, as noted below).

When am I barred from representing an employee organization before a Federal agency or court?

- You cannot represent an organization composed primarily of other Federal employees (or their family members):
 - in a claim against the Government,
 - in a proceeding,
 - if the matter at issue involves financial payments from the Government (such as a contract or grant), or
 - if you receive payment for the representational activities.

If I work for less than 130 days per year am I covered by these restrictions?

- Some of them. If you are a special Government employee (an employee who serves for less than 130 days in a 365-day period), you are only barred from contacting the Government regarding a matter involving specific parties if it:
 - is something on which you personally worked as part of your Government duties or
 - if you served for more than 60 days, is a matter before the Department of Commerce.

Note that if you served for less than 130 days, you can contact the Government on behalf of someone else regarding a general policy matter.