Conflict of Interest

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) application review policy prohibits a peer review panel member from reviewing an application in which he or she has a real or potential conflict of interest. Reviewers who meet the following criteria will be disqualified:

1. The reviewer has been or will be directly involved in the applicant's project (e.g., as an advisory member, a consultant, a collaborator, or as a conference speaker whose expenses would be paid from the grant).
2. The reviewer and the applicant have collaborated recently on work related to the proposal.
3. The reviewer is being considered for a position at the applicant's organization.
4. The reviewer has served the applicant organization in an official capacity within the last year.
5. The reviewer and the applicant have a familial relationship.
6. The reviewer's organization has members or officials who served the applicant organization in a formal capacity.
7. The reviewer and the applicant are known to be friends or antagonists.
8. The reviewer has a proposal planned or under review on the same subject area.
9. The reviewer has had a recent declination, substantial budget reduction, or other unfavorable action from OVC.
10. The reviewer is directly involved with the applicant in an associated project.
11. The reviewer has been employed by the applicant within the last year.
12. The peer reviewer is from the same institution or organization as the applicant, or was employed there within the last year.

A reviewer should disclose any of the above situations to the OVC peer review coordinator before serving on a specific OVC review panel.