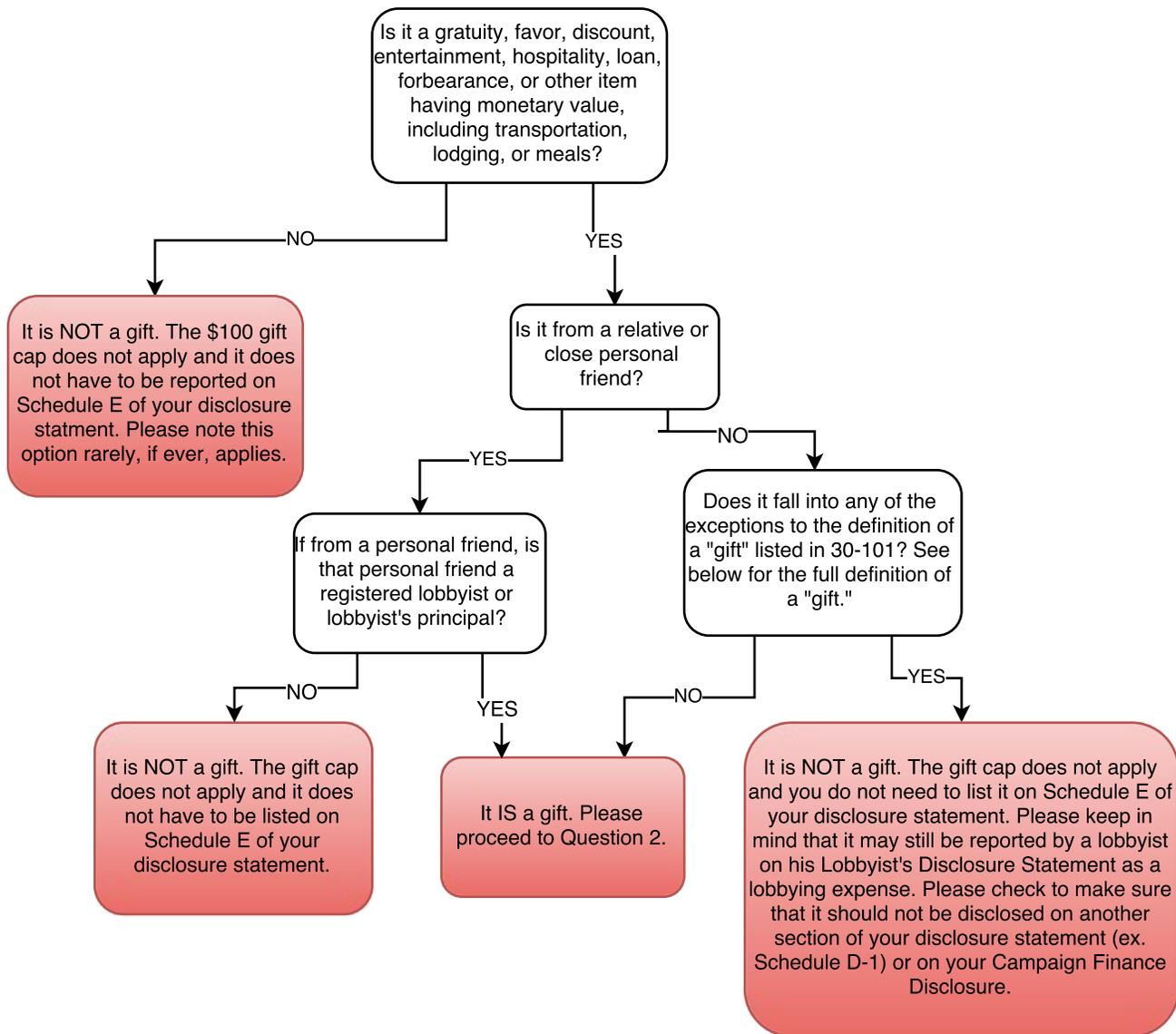


**Virginia Conflict of Interest
and Ethics Advisory Council**



**Understanding the New
"Gift Laws"**

1. IS IT A GIFT?

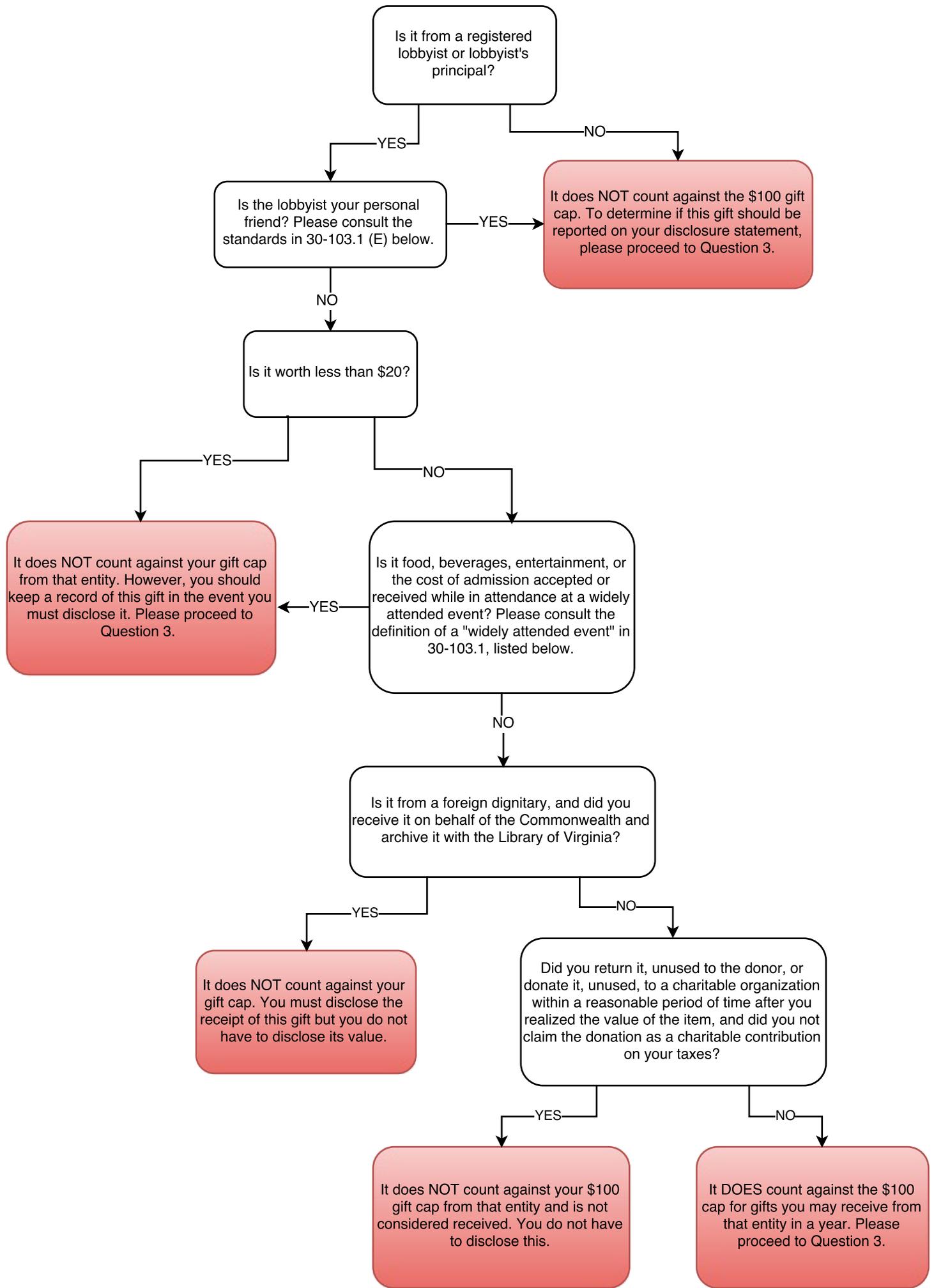


DEFINITIONS

"Gift" means any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other item having monetary value. It includes services as well as gifts of transportation, lodgings and meals, whether provided in-kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has been incurred.

"Gift" does not include (i) any offer of a ticket, coupon, or other admission or pass unless the ticket, coupon, admission, or pass is used; (ii) honorary degrees; (iii) any athletic, merit, or need-based scholarship or any other financial aid awarded by a public or private school, institution of higher education, or other educational program pursuant to such school, institution, or program's financial aid standards and procedures applicable to the general public; (iv) a campaign contribution properly received and reported pursuant to Chapter 9.3 (24.2-945 et seq.) of Title 24.2; (v) any gift related to the private profession or occupation of a legislator or of a member of his immediate family; (vi) food or beverages consumed while attending an event at which the filer is performing official duties related to his public service; (vii) food and beverages received at or registration or attendance fees waived for any event at which the filer is a featured speaker, presenter, or lecturer; (viii) unsolicited awards of appreciation or recognition in the form of a plaque, trophy, wall memento, or similar item that is given in recognition of public, civic, charitable, or professional service; (ix) a devise or inheritance; (x) travel disclosed pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (24.2-945 et seq.); (xi) travel paid for or provided by the government of the United States, any of its territories, or any state or any political subdivision of such state; (xii) travel provided to facilitate attendance by a legislator at a regular or special session of the General Assembly, a meeting of a legislative committee or commission, or a national conference where attendance is approved by the House or Senate Committee on Rules; (xiii) travel related to an official meeting of the Commonwealth, its political subdivisions, or any board, commission, authority, or other entity, or any charitable organization established pursuant to 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code affiliated with such entity, to which such person has been appointed or elected or is a member by virtue of his office or employment; or (xiv) gifts from relatives or personal friends. For the purpose of this definition, "relative" means the donee's spouse, child, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or first cousin; a person to whom the donee is engaged to be married; the donee's or his spouse's parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, step-parent, step-grandparent, step-grandchild, step-brother, or step-sister; or the donee's brother's or sister's spouse. For the purpose of this definition, "personal friend" does not include any person that the filer knows or has reason to know is (a) a lobbyist registered pursuant to Article 3 (2.2-418 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 2.2 or (b) a lobbyist's principal as defined in 2.2-419.

2. DOES IT COUNT AGAINST THE \$100 GIFT CAP?



DEFINITIONS

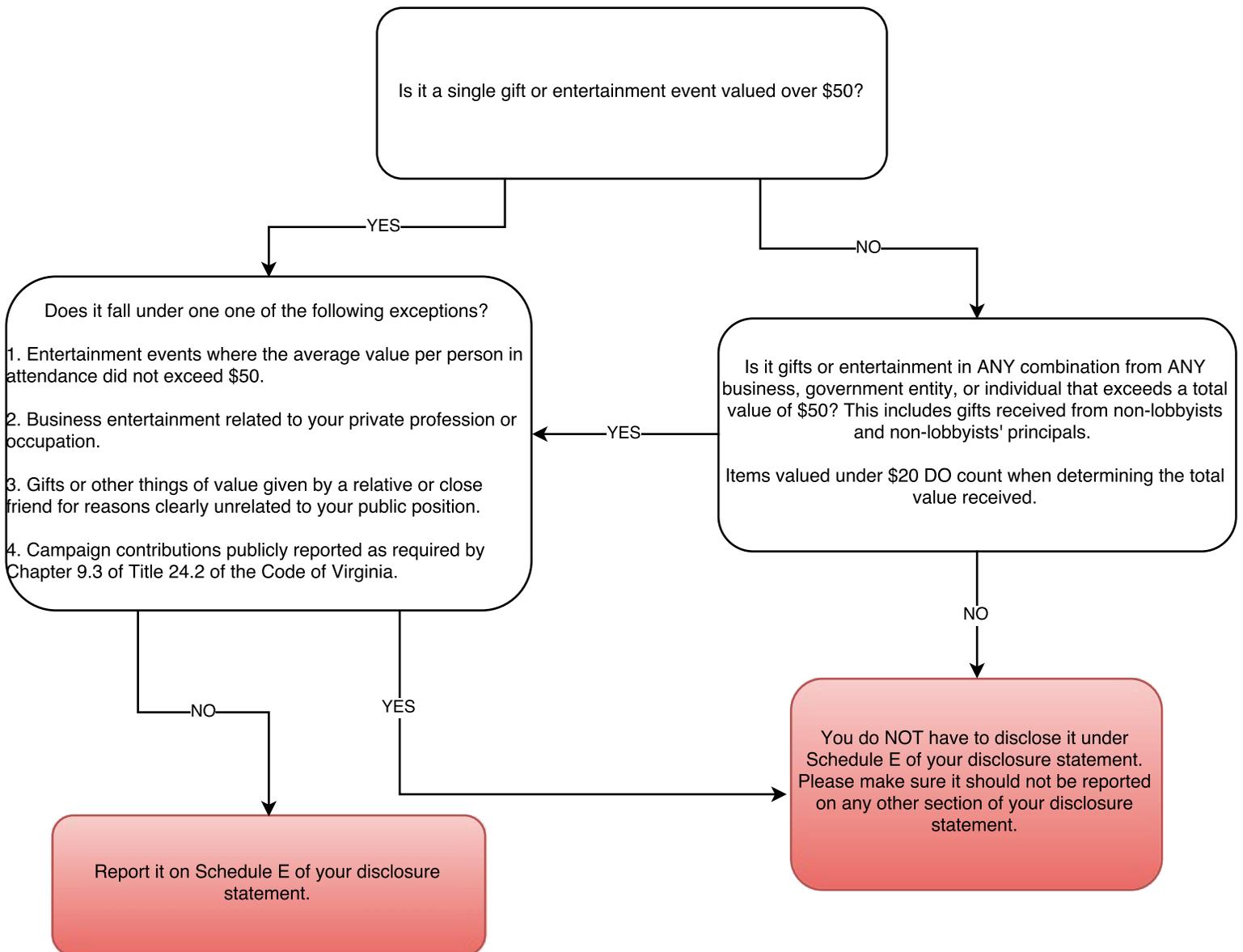
Is a lobbyist your personal friend?:

30-103.1 E:

Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B, a legislator or candidate or a member of his immediate family may accept or receive certain gifts with a value in excess of \$100 from a person listed in subsection B if such gift was provided to the legislator or candidate or a member of his immediate family on the basis of a personal friendship. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person listed in subsection B may be a personal friend of the legislator or candidate or his immediate family for purposes of this subsection. In determining whether a person listed in subsection B is a personal friend, the following factors shall be considered: (i) **the circumstances under which the gift was offered;** (ii) **the history of the relationship between the person and the donor, including the nature and length of the friendship and any previous exchange of gifts between them;** (iii) **to the extent known to the person, whether the donor personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift;** and (iv) **whether the donor has given the same or similar gifts to other persons required to file the disclosure form prescribed in 2.2-3117 or 30-111.**

"Widely attended event" means an event at which at least 25 persons have been invited to attend or there is a reasonable expectation that at least 25 persons will attend the event and the event is open to individuals (i) who share a common interest, (ii) who are members of a public, civic, charitable, or professional organization, (iii) who are from a particular industry or profession, or (iv) who represent persons interested in a particular issue.

3. DO I REPORT IT ON SCHEDULE E OF MY STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS?



STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS SCHEDULE E INSTRUCTIONS

SCHEDULE E - GIFTS.

List each business, governmental entity, or individual that, during the past six months, (i) furnished you or a member of your immediate family with any gift or entertainment at a single event, and the value received exceeded \$50 or (ii) furnished you or a member of your immediate family with gifts or entertainment in any combination and the total value received exceeded \$50, and for which you or the member of your immediate family neither paid nor rendered services in exchange. List each such gift or event.

Do not list entertainment events unless the average value per person attending the event exceeded \$50. Do not list business entertainment related to the private profession or occupation of you or the member of your immediate family who received such business entertainment. Do not list gifts or other things of value given by a relative or personal friend for reasons clearly unrelated to your public position. Do not list campaign contributions publicly reported as required by Chapter 9.3 (24.2-945 et seq.) of Title 24.2 of the Code of Virginia.