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## Immunity for Public Officials Info Sheet

Official immunity is distinguishable from sovereign immunity. Whereas sovereign immunity protects government itself (e.g. state, city, town, village, etc.), official immunity protects its officers. "Sovereign immunity shields the state from suit in its own courts and confers immunity from liability for torts committed by its officers and employees. Official immunity, on the other hand, shields the state officials and employees themselves in certain circumstances." In short, sovereign immunity pertains to when a municipality is sued and official immunity to when its officers are sued.

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If you have additional questions, please contact the staff at the VLCT Municipal Assistance Center. Members may reach us at [info@vlct.org](mailto:info@vlct.org) or 1-800-649-7915 for assistance.

### Documents:

 [Immunity for Public Officials Info Sheet.pdf](#) [1]

### Links:

[Municipal Governance Home](#) [2]

[Sovereign Immunity Info Sheet](#) [3]

### Resource Category:

- Guidance
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### Links

[1] <https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/documents/Resource/Immunity%20for%20Public%20Officials%20Info%20Sheet.pdf>  
[2] <https://www.vlct.org/municipal-assistance/municipal-topics/municipal-governance>  
[3] <https://www.vlct.org/resource/sovereign-immunity-info-sheet>