211B.32 COMPLAINTS OF UNFAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES.

Subdivision 1. **Administrative remedy; exhaustion.** (a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c), a complaint alleging a violation of chapter 211A or 211B must be filed with the court. The complaint must be finally disposed of by the court before the alleged violation may be prosecuted by a county attorney.

(b) Complaints arising under those sections and related to those individuals and associations specified in section 10A.022, subdivision 3, must be filed with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

(c) Violations of sections 211B.075, 211B.076, and 211B.25 may be enforced as provided in those sections.

Subd. 2. **Limitation on filing.** The complaint must be filed with the court within one year after the occurrence of the act or failure to act that is the subject of the complaint, except that if the act or failure to act involves fraud, concealment, or misrepresentation that could not be discovered during that one-year period, the complaint may be filed with the court within one year after the fraud, concealment, or misrepresentation was discovered.

Subd. 3. **Form of complaint.** The complaint must be in writing, submitted under oath, and detail the factual basis for the claim that a violation of law has occurred. The court may prescribe the form of a complaint.

Subd. 4. **Proof of claim.** The burden of proving the allegations in the complaint is on the complainant. The standard of proof of a violation of chapter 211A or 211B is a preponderance of the evidence.

Subd. 5. **Filing fee; waiver; refund.** (a) The complaint must be accompanied by a filing fee of $50, unless filed by a filing officer under section 211A.05, subdivision 2.

(b) The court may waive the payment of the filing fee, if the individual seeking a waiver of the fee files with the court an affidavit stating that the individual is financially unable to pay the fee.

(c) The court may refund the filing fee of a complainant who prevails on the merits.

Subd. 6. **Service on respondent.** Upon receipt of the filed complaint, the court must immediately notify the respondent and provide the respondent with a copy of the complaint by the most expeditious means available.

History: *2004 c 277 s 7; 2013 c 138 art 1 s 54; 2015 c 73 s 26; 2023 c 34 art 2 s 3; 2023 c 62 art 4 s 132; 2025 c 39 art 2 s 68; art 7 s 19; 2026 c 102 s 13*