



**OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS**

**DOCKET NUMBER 2016-32** :  
: **18-20 TRINITY STREET**  
**IN THE MATTER OF A** :  
: **HARTFORD, CT 06106**  
**COMPLAINT AGAINST** :  
: **MARCH 15, 2017**  
**LISA BERZINS** :

**STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER**

Pursuant to the Code of Ethics, General Statutes §§ 1-79, *et seq.*, Thomas Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer, filed a Complaint against Lisa Berzins (“Dr. Berzins” or “Respondent”), alleging violations of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. Based on the investigation by the Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics (“OSE”), the OSE finds that there is probable cause to believe that Dr. Berzins violated the Code of Ethics as further set forth herein.

The Parties have entered into this Consent Order following the issuance of the Complaint, but without any adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein.

**I. STIPULATION**

The Ethics Enforcement Officer and the Respondent stipulate to the following facts:

1. From on or about 2013 through on or about 2016, the Respondent was employed as a staff psychologist at the Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, a state facility operated

by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (“DMHAS”).

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was a “State Employee” as that term is defined in General Statutes § 1-79 (13).

3. At all times relevant hereto, in addition to being a State Employee, the Respondent worked for a private company (“Private Company”) that provides counseling services to clients, and was compensated for this work.

4. The work that the Respondent performed for the Private Company was not related to the Respondent’s state job duties.

5. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent used state resources, including an assigned DMHAS computer, the state email system, and the state phone system to conduct outside work-related tasks for the Private Company on state time, and was compensated by the state for such time.

6. General Statutes § 1-84 (c) states in pertinent part:

No public official or state employee...shall use his public office or position or any confidential information received through his holding such public office or position to obtain financial gain for himself . . .

7. The Respondent, by using the resources provided by virtue of her state position for outside work for which she was compensated financially, used her state position to obtain financial gain for herself, in violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

8. Each time the Respondent used the resources provided by virtue of her state position for outside work purposes constitutes a separate and distinct violation of General Statutes §1-84 (c).

## II. JURISDICTION

1. The Ethics Enforcement Officer is authorized to investigate the Respondent's acts as set forth herein, and to enter into this Stipulation and Consent Order.

2. The provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order apply to and are binding upon the Respondent.

3. The Respondent hereby waives all objections and defenses to the jurisdiction of the Ethics Enforcement Officer over matters addressed in this Stipulation and Consent Order.

4. The Respondent waives any rights she may have under General Statutes §§ 1-80, 1-82, 1-82a, 1-87 and 1-88, including the right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Ethics Enforcement Officer to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by General Statutes § 4-177 (c).

5. The Respondent consents to jurisdiction and venue in the Connecticut Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, in the event that the State of Connecticut seeks to enforce this Stipulation and Consent Order. The Respondent recognizes that the Connecticut Superior Court has the authority to specifically enforce the provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order, including the authority to award equitable relief.

6. The terms set forth herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other existing or future statutory, regulatory, or other legal obligation that may be applicable to the Respondent.

7. The Respondent understands that she has a right to counsel and has been represented by counsel during the OSE's investigation and in connection with this Stipulation and Consent Order.

**III. ORDER**

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to General Statutes § 4-177 (c), the Office of State Ethics hereby ORDERS, and Dr. Berzins agrees, that:

1. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (1), Dr. Berzins will cease and desist from any future violations of §§ 1-84 (c).
2. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (3), Dr. Berzins will pay civil penalties to the State in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for her violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c) as set forth in the Complaint and herein.

WHEREFORE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer and Dr. Berzins hereby execute this Stipulation and Consent Order dated March 15, 2017.

Dated: 3/28/17

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Lisa Berzins

Dated: 4/6/17

  
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Thomas K. Jones  
Ethics Enforcement Officer  
Connecticut Office of State Ethics  
18-20 Trinity Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 263-2390