

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

DOCKET NUMBER 2019-34 :
: **18-20 TRINITY STREET**
IN THE MATTER OF A :
: **HARTFORD, CT 06106**
COMPLAINT AGAINST :
: **MARCH 2, 2020**
LOUIS SORRENTINO :

STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to the Code of Ethics, General Statutes §§ 1-79, *et seq.*, Mark Wasielewski, Ethics Enforcement Officer, filed a Complaint against Louis Sorrentino (“Mr. Sorrentino” 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 Mr. Sorrentino 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 2007 through on or about July 2019, the Respondent was employed as a Certified Addictions Counselor at the Connecticut Valley Hospital (hereinafter “CVH”) in Middletown, a state facility operated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (hereinafter “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, and in addition to his state employment, the Respondent owned and/or operated two private businesses (collectively hereinafter the “private businesses”) for financial gain.

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

5. In 2018 and 2019, the Respondent on multiple occasions used state resources, including DMHAS computers and other equipment, to operate his private businesses on state time, and was compensated by the state for such time.

6. The state resources that the Respondent used to conduct his private businesses were provided by virtue of his state position.

7. On or about January 13, 2018, the Respondent entered a Connecticut hospital (hereinafter “hospital”) in order to treat a client whom he represented solely in his private capacity (hereinafter “private client”).

8. On or about January 13, 2018, while at the hospital and in his representation of the private client, the Respondent verbally identified himself to hospital staff as a CVH employee in an effort to assist his private client.

9. On or about January 13, 2018, while at the hospital and in his representation of his

private client, the Respondent wore his state employee identification badge.

10. The state employee identification badge that the Respondent used in his representation of his private client was provided by virtue of his state position.

11. The work that the Respondent performed for his private client was not related to the Respondent's state job duties.

12. The work that the Respondent performed for his private client was for financial gain.

13. 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 . . .

14. The Respondent, by using state resources and his state identification badge for outside work, and by identifying himself as a state employee in the representation of and to assist a private client as described above, for which he was compensated financially, used his state position to obtain financial gain for himself, in 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 he 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 he 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 Mr. Sorrentino agrees, that:

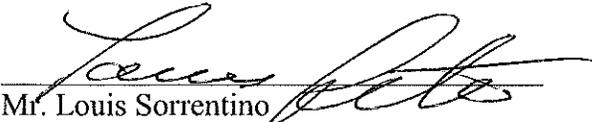
1. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (1), Mr. Sorrentino will cease and desist from any future violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

2. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (3), Mr. Sorrentino will pay civil penalties to the State in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for his violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c) as set forth in the Complaint and herein.

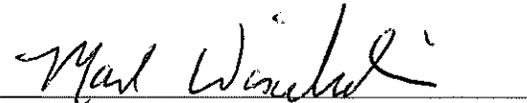
WHEREFORE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer and Mr. Sorrentino hereby execute this

Stipulation and Consent Order dated March 2, 2020.

Dated: 3/2/20


Mr. Louis Sorrentino

Dated: 3/2/20


Mark E. Wasielewski
Ethics Enforcement Officer
Connecticut Office of State Ethics
18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 263-2398