



Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation Services

2018 Ethics Statement

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) is to maximize opportunities for people in Connecticut with disabilities to **live, learn and work independently**. With this year's addition of Aging Services to the agency, the mission is being re-evaluated to also include our focus on serving older adults in Connecticut.

We provide a comprehensive range of services to assist persons with disabilities and older adults in Connecticut. Our programs, policies and practices are designed to promote employment, independence, equal access and self-sufficiency.

Purpose of Ethics Policy

The Policy is designed to ensure that the agency and its staff maintain the highest level of honesty and integrity in dealing with clients, vendors, fellow staff, other governmental agencies and the general public. All decisions and actions of the agency and its staff must be - in reality and in appearance - professional, impartial and free of any undue interest or influence.

The Department of Rehabilitation Services adopts in full the state Ethics Policy as the agency's policy. This policy applies to all employees of DORS. In addition, any employee so designated by the agency shall file a Statement of Financial Interests (SFI) annually with the Office of State Ethics. You will be told if you are required to file this Statement.

It should be noted that the published state Ethics Policy which operates as the DORS Ethics Policy was last updated in 2016. Since that time two new provisions have been adopted and are fully in effect although they have not yet been incorporated into the text of the full policy. The first provision covers any employee who attends a convention or conference and has their travel, hotel stay or registration costs, etc., paid for by a non-governmental entity. That employee must fill out an online State Ethics form within 30 days of the event to report all of those reimbursed expenses and who paid for them (Public Act 18-64, Section 1). The second provision adds Human Resource directors to the list of employees who must report any violation of the ethics laws that they may observe or suspect to have occurred (Public Act 19-137, Section 3). Again, these new provisions are a part of both the state and DORS Ethics Policy although they do not yet appear in the text of the published policy.

Any employee who has any questions about the agency's Ethics Policy and any employee who observes actions or behavior that raise ethical concerns should consult with his or her immediate supervisor, the agency's Ethics Liaison or the Office of State Ethics.

You may click below on a link to the Word version and the PDF version of the March 2016 state Code of Ethics (the latest version) which will serve as the 2018 Ethics Policy for the Department of Rehabilitation Services.



Public Officials and
State Employees Guide



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Issued by Amy Porter, Commissioner, Department of Rehabilitation Services
September 2018.

This statement and policy are issued pursuant to and in compliance with Conn. Gen. Stat. Secs. 1-83(a)(2) and 1-101rr(b).