

ETHICS STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

All Department of Veterans' Affairs employees shall adhere to the highest ethical standards. Department of Veterans' Affairs employees shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Connecticut Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees, Governor Rell's Executive Order No. 1 and the Mission Statement of the Department. All employees shall strive to ensure that the veterans of Connecticut are provided the best possible medical, nursing, domiciliary care, and advocacy and assistance services.

All services provided to Connecticut veterans shall be without outside influences and in an unbiased manner.

APPLICATION

The provisions of this policy apply to all employees of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The policy will be reviewed annually by each Department of Veterans' Affairs employee. Prospective employees shall review this policy prior to accepting a position.

POLICY

A copy of the Guide to the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees is attached. The principal provisions of the Code are as follows:

- **GIFTS.** In general, state employees are prohibited from accepting gifts from anyone doing business with, seeking to do business with, or directly regulated by the state employee's agency or department or from persons known to be a registered lobbyist or lobbyist's representative.
- **FINANCIAL BENEFIT.** A state employee is prohibited from using his/her office for the financial benefit of the individual, certain family members, or that of an associated business.
- **OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT.** A state employee may not accept outside employment which will impair his/her independence of judgment as to official state duties or which would induce the disclosure of confidential information. Generally, outside employment is barred if the private employer can benefit from the state employee's official actions.
- **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.** Certain state employees are required to file a financial disclosure statement with the State Ethics Commission. This statement will be considered public information.
- **POST-STATE EMPLOYMENT.** There may be post-employment restrictions, known as "revolving door" prohibitions. For example, there are restrictions on

accepting employment with a party to certain contracts if you were involved in the negotiation or award of the contract; for one year after leaving state service, you may not represent anyone for compensation before your former agency; certain designated individuals in the State's regulatory agencies may not, for one year after leaving state service, accept employment with any business subject to regulation by their former agency.

Please be advised that this is only a general overview. If you have specific questions about the State Code of Ethics, you should contact Noreen R. Sinclair, the agency Ethics Liaison Officer at (860) 616-3630, or contact the State Ethics Commission directly at (860) 566-4472.

It shall be the responsibility of each Department of Veterans' Affairs employee to bring any circumstances that may be or could lead to a violation of the State Code of Ethics to the attention of Ms. Sinclair, the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs or the State Ethics Commission immediately. Prospective employees shall disclose any such circumstances during an interview or as early as possible.

Linda S. Schwartz, RN, DrPH, FAAN
Commissioner

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