STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

87-3

September 20, 1988

P R E S S R E L E A S E

On April 6, 1987, an Ethics Commission Staff Attorney filed a complaint (Docket No. 87-3) against Ms. Mary Beth Campbell.

The complaint alleged that Ms. Campbell had violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees by accepting compensated employment from private genealogists while employed as a supervisor in the Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health Services.

On November 16 and 23, 1987, the Ethics Commission held a preliminary hearing on this matter. At the close of the hearing the Commission found probable cause to believe Ms. Campbell had violated three provisions of the Code as alleged in the complaint. The Commission felt also, however, that certain private genealogists, particularly Blake and Blake of Braintree, Massachusetts, preyed upon State employees in order to gain unauthorized and preferential access to vital records.

On September 19, 1988, the Ethics Commission and the Respondent settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order (copy attached). As part of the Stipulation and Order, Ms. Campbell admitted that she violated the Code of Ethics.

Prior to the Ethics Commission's investigation, the Department of Health Services had transferred Ms. Campbell to a different division of the Department. After the Commission's probable cause findings were made public, the Department suspended Ms. Campbell for three weeks without pay.

The Commission's decision not to impose any further penalty was based on a belief that responsibility for the violations in question was shared by the Respondent, the Department of Health Services and the private genealogists. In addition to Blake and Blake's recruitment of State employees, the Commission felt that the Department's policy regarding outside employment may not, at all times, have been consistent with the provisions of the Code of Ethics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Alan S. Plofsky, Esq. or Lisa Doyle Moran, Esq.
State Ethics Commission
566-4472

Phone: (203) 566-4472
97 Elm Street — Rear [redacted] • Hartford, Connecticut 06106
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER #87-3	)	STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF A	)	97 ELM STREET (REAR)
COMPLAINT AGAINST	)	HARTFORD, CONN. 06106
MS. MARYBETH CAMPBELL	)	AUGUST 19, 1988

S T I P U L A T I O N

1. The Respondent admits she unknowingly violated subsections 1-84(a), 1-84(b), and 1-84(c) of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Chapter 10, Part I, General Statutes, by accepting compensated employment from private genealogists while employed as a supervisor in the Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health Services. The Ethics Commission finds the Department of Health Services' policy in regard to outside employment may not have been consistent with the provisions of the Code of Ethics.

2. The Ethics Commission finds the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics subsections 1-84(a), 1-84(b), and 1-84(c) as stated in the attached Notice of Termination of Preliminary Investigation and Results Thereof.

3. The Respondent waives any rights she may have under Sections 1-82 and 1-82a, General Statutes, including the right to a further hearing in this case, and agrees with the Commission to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by subsection 4-177(d), General Statutes.

WHEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission enters, and Ms. MaryBeth Campbell agrees to, this order: In lieu of any other action it is authorized to take with respect to this matter, the Commission orders the Respondent to henceforth comply with the requirements of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Chapter 10, Part I, General Statutes.

Beth M. Campbell
Respondent

9-12-88
Dated

William A. Elmer
Chairperson
State Ethics Commission

9/19/88
Dated

Phone: (203) 566-4472

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DOCKET NUMBER 87-3	)	STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF A	)	97 ELM STREET (REAR)
COMPLAINT AGAINST	)	HARTFORD, CONN. 06106
MS. MARY BETH CAMPBELL	)	NOVEMBER 24, 1987

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND RESULTS THEREOF

Pursuant to Section 1-82a, C.G.S., the State Ethics Commission declares that on November 23, 1987 it terminated the preliminary investigation conducted with regard to Docket Number 87-3.

As a result of this investigation:

1. The Ethics Commission finds that the Respondent, Mary Beth Campbell, was, from April 6, 1984 through July 23, 1985, a State employee, specifically a supervisor in the Vital Records Division, Connecticut Department of Health Services. Vote 6-0.

2. The Commission finds probable cause to believe that from April 6, 1984 through July 23, 1985, the Respondent, for personal financial gain, researched and sold information concerning vital records, which she had access to by reason of her official duties and State position. This information was sold to: Blake and Blake, Genealogists of Braintree, Ma.; Genealogical Search, Inc. of Boston, Ma.; and David Patterson of Hingham, Ma. Vote 6-0.

3. The Commission finds probable cause to believe that by accepting the employment and carrying out the activities described in paragraph 2, above, the Respondent violated provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Chapter 10, Part I, General Statutes as follows:

Subsection 1-84(a), General Statutes, in that she engaged in transactions by which she had reason to believe or expect that she would derive a direct monetary gain by reason of her official activity. Vote 6-0.

Subsection 1-84(b), General Statutes, in that she accepted employment, other than her State employment, which would impair her independence of judgment as to her official duties or employment. Vote 6-0.

Subsection 1-84(c), General Statutes in that she used her public position to obtain financial gain for herself. Vote 6-0.

By order of the Commission,

cindy cannata

Cindy Cannata
Clerk of the Commission

Dated NOV. 24, 1987

87-3

CONNECTICUT STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
97 ELM STREET (REAR)
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TELEPHONE NUMBER 566-4472

COMPLAINT

THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES A COMPLAINT ALLEGING A VIOLATION OF:

__XX__ THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND STATE EMPLOYEES, CHAPTER 10, PART I, GENERAL STATUTES

_____ THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR LOBBYISTS, CHAPTER 10, PART II, GENERAL STATUTES

TIME AND DATE MATTERS COMPLAINED OF OCCURRED:

April 6, 1984 through July, 1985

PLACE VIOLATION OCCURRED: Department of Health Services
Hartford, Connecticut

PERSONS INVOLVED: Mary Beth Campbell, Former Supervisor, Vital Records Division of the Department of Health Services

PROBABLE WITNESSES: Past and present employees of the Department of Health Services

CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH INDICATE THAT THE CODE OF ETHICS DESIGNATED ABOVE WAS VIOLATED ARE AS FOLLOWS (A SHORT, PLAIN STATEMENT ALLEGING A VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 10, GENERAL STATUTES):

see attached

000116

(OVER)

Brenda Farrell
SIGNATURE

April 6, 1987
DATE

COMPLAINANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS: STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
97 ELM STREET (REAR)
HARTFORD, CT 06106

COMPLAINANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER: 566-4472

It is hereby alleged that:

1. Ms. Mary Beth Campbell (Hereinafter the "Respondent") was at all times relevant to this Complaint a Supervisor in the Vital Records Division of the Department of Health Services. By virtue of her State position, the Respondent was, at all times relevant to this Complaint, a "state employee" (1-79(k), General Statutes) subject to the requirements of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials (Chapter 10, Part I, General Statutes).

2. From April 6, 1984 through July 23, 1985, the Respondent, for personal financial gain, researched and sold both confidential and public records, which she had access to by reason of her official duties. This work was done during State work hours while the Respondent's official responsibilities were neglected. The State fee system was circumvented by the Respondent being paid personally for the release of State documents, avoiding the required payment to the State.

3. The activity alleged in paragraph 2 is in violation of Section 1-84(a), General Statutes, which prohibits a State employee from deriving monetary gain through activity in conflict with the proper discharge of public duty; Section 1-84(b), General Statutes, which prohibits acceptance of other employment which will impair independence of judgment as to official duties or induce disclosure of confidential information gained through State employment; and Section 1-84(c), General Statutes, which prohibits wilful and knowing disclosure, for financial gain, of confidential information acquired by reason of State employment, and prohibits use of public office or position, or any confidential information received through holding such office or position, to obtain financial gain.