



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

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Department of Transportation Official in Charge of US Route 7 Project pays \$2,500 to Office of State Ethics for ‘Conflict of Interest’ Violation

Hartford –Department of Transportation (DOT) employee Roger Thomas, of Stafford Springs, Connecticut agreed to pay a \$2,500 penalty to the Office of State Ethics for failing to disclose his son’s interest in a highway project he was overseeing in violation of the nepotism provisions of the Connecticut Code of Ethics.

Section 1-86 (a) of the Code of Ethics requires any state employee who, in the discharge of his official duties, would be required to take action that would affect the interest of his immediate family, to prepare and file a written statement with his immediate supervisor describing the nature of the conflict. His supervisor is then required to assign the matter to another state employee.

In 2010, Mr. Thomas was assigned as a Transportation Engineer 3 to DOT District 3, which encompasses parts of both New Haven and Fairfield counties. As part of this assignment Thomas had administrative oversight and duties relating to a highway project, including oversight over the contractor that was hired as a consultant for the highway project.

Mr. Thomas became aware that the contractor sought to hire a field office secretary for the highway project and suggested his son to officials of the contractor as someone who could fill the position. His son applied for the position and was the sole applicant. The contractor did not publish, advertise or solicit other candidates for the secretarial position. When the contractor submitted the hiring request to DOT; a DOT official sought Mr. Thomas’s recommendation, which he gave without disclosing that the candidate was his son.

After the hiring of his son, Thomas was responsible for reviewing and approving three separate contractor payroll abstracts that the contractor submitted to the DOT, wherein Thomas’s son received payment for working for the contractor. On each occasion, Thomas approved payment without disclosing to DOT the fact that his son was employed by the contractor.

“The conflict of interest provisions of the Code of Ethics preserve the integrity of public service,” said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. “Conflicts of interest must be properly disclosed as required by law, and handled at a level higher than the individual with the conflict.”

View: [Stipulation and Consent Order 2012-26](#)

The Connecticut Office of State Ethics mission is to ensure honesty, integrity and accountability in state government through education, interpretation and enforcement of the State of Connecticut Code of Ethics. To contact us please visit our website at www.ct.gov/ethics or call us at (860) 263-2400.