

STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 29, 2015

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State Employee Operates Private Practice on State Time Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board Issues \$3,500 Penalty

Hartford – Former Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services employee Jason Spann of New Haven, Connecticut violated the Code of Ethics when he used state resources and personnel to facilitate business transactions related to his private clinical services business. Following an investigation by the Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics, he entered a stipulation and consent order and paid a \$3,500 penalty.

From 2010 through 2014, while a state employee, Spann owned and operated a clinical services business. During this time period, Spann utilized state resources, including his state-issued computer and state-provided e-mail account, in order to conduct his private business.

Additionally, the investigation revealed that Spann also used another state employee to perform tasks related to his private practice, while using state resources on state time and being paid by the state.

Under Section 1-84 (c) of the Code of Ethics, a public official or state employee is prohibited from using state resources to obtain personal financial gain.

"Operating a private business with state resources is a serious violation of the law," said Executive Director Carol Carson. "The Enforcement Division will continue to prosecute these violations vigorously."

Spann lost his state position through a separate but related personnel action.

View: Stipulation and Consent Order 2014-10

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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 <u>www.ct.gov/ethics</u> or call us at (860) 263-2400.