



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former DPH Employee fined \$500 for Accepting Outside Employment that Impaired her Independence of Judgment

Hartford –Mary Keating, a former employee with the Department of Public Health (“DPH”) violated the Code of Ethics when she accepted other employment that impaired her independence of judgment. Ms. Keating paid a penalty of \$500 for her violation.

A preliminary investigation revealed that, while employed by DPH, Ms. Keating served as the Hospital Preparedness Coordinator in DPH’s Public Health Preparedness Response Unit that was responsible for the Hospital Preparedness Program. In June 2013 while employed by DPH, Ms. Keating accepted a per diem position in the Emergency Department of St. Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury. In her state position, Ms. Keating was partially responsible for oversight of St. Mary’s participation in the Hospital Preparedness Program. By being the Hospital Preparedness Coordinator and providing oversight of the day to day activities of the Program, including St. Mary’s Hospitals’ involvement, while at the same time accepting a per diem position in the Emergency Department of St. Mary’s Hospital, Ms. Keating accepted other employment that impaired her independence of judgment as to her state duties, which is prohibited under section 1-84 (b) of the Code of Ethics.

In a Stipulation and Consent Order, Ms. Keating states that she solicited the Office of State Ethics for advice in April, 2013 and believed that the advice she received allowed her to take the position at St. Mary’s. The Enforcement Division was prepared to argue at a Probable Cause hearing that Ms. Keating’s interpretation of the advice was misplaced, and that the advice clearly prohibited her from accepting the position.

“The outside employment of state employees cannot compromise their duty to the state,” said Executive Director Carol Carson.

View: [Stipulation and Consent Order 2013-53](#)

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