

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former CEO of Access Health CT James Wadleigh and State Contractor Softheon, Inc. Settle Ethics Cases, Pay Fines

Hartford – James Wadleigh of Glastonbury paid a \$5,000 civil penalty for violating the Code of Ethics when he accepted employment with state contractor Softheon, Inc. located in Stony Brook, New York. Wadleigh was hired by Softheon, Inc. within a year of departing state service as the CEO of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, a quasi-public agency also known as Access Health CT.

Softheon, Inc., also paid a \$5,000 penalty for offering employment to Mr. Wadleigh within one year of his departure from state service.

Section 1-84b (f), one of several provisions of the Code of Ethics known as the "revolving door" sections, prohibits a public official from being hired for a period of one year after leaving state service by a party to a state contract valued at \$50,000 or more if he was substantially involved in, or supervised, the negotiation or award of that contract and it was signed within his last year of state service. It also prohibits any party to such state contract from employing any such former public official.

As CEO of Access Health CT, Wadleigh had been involved in the negotiation or award of a state contract worth more than \$50K with Softheon, Inc. Wadleigh, stating a misunderstanding of the Code of Ethics and its revolving door provisions, resigned from Softheon, Inc. in late October 2018.

"When State employees leave state service it is critical for them to understand that there are very specific revolving door provisions, which ban particular actions," said Office of State Ethics Executive Director, Carol Carson. "Know the limits, contact our legal division for advice and then follow the advice you are given."

View: <u>Stipulation and Consent Order</u> Docket No. 2018-40 in the Matter of James Wadleigh View: <u>Stipulation and Consent Order</u> Docket No. 2018-42 in the Matter of Softheon, Inc.

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The mission of the Connecticut Office of State Ethics 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.