

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former Correction Officer Pays \$2,500 to Resolve Ethics Violation

Hartford, CT – On November 26, 2025, the Office of State Ethics (“OSE”) entered into a Stipulation and Consent Order with Jose Perez-Cesar in the *Matter of a Complaint Against Jose Perez-Cesar* ([Docket No. 2024-37](#)). The agreement resolves allegations that Perez-Cesar, a former Correction Officer with the Connecticut Department of Correction (“DOC”), violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. Under the terms of the agreement, Perez-Cesar admitted to violating the Code and agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$2,500.

The Complaint issued by OSE alleged that in 2020, Perez-Cesar misused the Department of Correction’s Temporary Emergency Lodging Program/Hotel Accommodations Program (“TELP”) for personal financial gain. This program provided free hotel accommodations to DOC employees who had been exposed to COVID-19, allowing them to quarantine outside of their homes and thereby reduce the risk of transmitting the virus to loved ones or to individuals within DOC facilities.

The DOC’s TELP policy expressly prohibited guests from staying in the hotel rooms, as doing so would undermine the public health purpose of the program. In violation of this policy, Perez-Cesar permitted personal guests to visit—and, at times, stay—in his hotel room on multiple occasions over approximately a nine-month period in 2020. The Complaint further alleged that Perez-Cesar remained checked in at more than one hotel at the same time, resulting in hotel charges in excess of \$18,000, which were paid by the Department of Correction.

The State’s position was that Perez-Cesar’s conduct violated [Section 1-84\(c\)](#) of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, which prohibits state employees from using their official position or access to state resources for personal financial gain.

The \$2,500 settlement was based on several mitigating factors, including Perez-Cesar's resignation from state service, and his cooperation throughout the Enforcement Division's investigation.

The Stipulation and Consent Order also expressly preserves the State of Connecticut's right to seek reimbursement of the hotel costs through other legal avenues. At the Board's direction, the Enforcement Division sought to strengthen that language following deliberations at the November meeting. Although Perez-Cesar declined to amend the agreement after having already signed it and submitted an initial payment, the Division communicated with the Department of Administrative Services regarding potential collection efforts and advised Perez-Cesar that the State may still pursue reimbursement.

"This case illustrates that emergency programs—particularly those created to protect public health—must not be misused for personal benefit," said **Executive Director Peter Lewandowski**. "Even during extraordinary circumstances, state employees are held to a clear legal and ethical standard. The Office of State Ethics remains committed to ensuring that state resources are used appropriately and in accordance with the public trust."

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