

Ethics Policy for Employees of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (revised 8/2012)

The Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA) secures, protects and advances the civil and human rights of people who have disabilities in Connecticut. Agency activities are guided by a vision of a state in which people with disabilities are valued citizens, and are fully included in economic, social and political life in their communities.

Because OPA provides advocacy services and conducts abuse and neglect investigations, the agency must maintain a staunchly independent character. It is important that employees be especially careful to avoid even the perception of a conflict of interest. If an employee has any questions about a potential conflict, he or she must consult with his or her immediate supervisor and OPA's Personnel Officer, OPA's Ethics Liaison Officer, or contact the Office of State Ethics directly. The phone number for the Office of State Ethics is (860) 566-4472.

Employees of OPA are representatives of State Government and hold the public trust. All OPA staff members are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the State Ethics Code for Public Officials contained in Chapter 10 of the Connecticut General Statutes (§1-79 through 1-90 inclusive) and for compliance with the provisions of the Code. The State Code of Ethics for Public Officials is designed to prevent public officials and state employees from using their public position or authority, or confidential information gained in State service, for personal or financial benefit.

A summary guide to the State Ethics Code for Public Officials issued by the Office of State Ethics is in Appendix D.

Employees who have further questions about the State Ethics Code for Public Officials should contact OPA's Ethics Liaison Officer or the Office of State Ethics for assistance. The phone number for the Office of State Ethics is 860-263-2400.

Outside Employment

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §1-84(a) and (b), employees are prohibited from engaging in outside employment when such employment may influence or be influenced by the position the employee holds at OPA.

Post-State Employment

There are post-state employment restrictions in the State Ethics Code for Public Officials, Connecticut General Statutes §1-84b which may apply to you. For example, for one year after leaving state service you may not represent anyone for compensation before your former state agency. Numerous other restrictions apply. For more information contact OPA's Ethics Liaison Officer or the Office of State Ethics. The phone number for the Office of State Ethics is 860-263-2400.