



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND MARINES' FUND
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September 1, 2012

SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES FUND
STATEMENT OF ETHICS

References: 1) Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-83 (a) (2)
2) Connecticut General Statutes Sections 27-103, 27-138 and 27-140
3) The American Legion Department of Connecticut Special Bylaws
Governing Administration of the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund

1. Mission and Statutory Authority - The State of Connecticut, under Sections 27-138 and 27-140 of the Connecticut General Statutes, has made provision for certain assistance payments to discharged personnel of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The American Legion Department of Connecticut has been designated by the Connecticut General Assembly as the organization through which such funds are to be disbursed.

2. Governance and Administration - The Legionnaires of the Department of Connecticut have accepted the duties attendant in the statutes with full cognizance of their gravity and with awareness of their responsibility and accountability to both the veterans and the citizens of Connecticut for unimpeachable stewardship of the resources entrusted to them. For the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of the statutes, Special Bylaws of the American Legion Department of Connecticut Governing the Administration of the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund have been enacted and a special commission, the State Fund Commission, has been constituted. The Commission is the policymaking body of the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund. The Commission bears fiduciary responsibility for disbursements of funds, directs policies and procedures to be implemented by the Administrator in managing the agency. Such policies include eligibility, internal controls and management, disbursement, accounting, and reporting of assistance, as well as ethics and compliance policies. The Commission is granted full authority to act on behalf of the American Legion Department of Connecticut in making disposition of all matters arising under the statutes in order to carry their provisions into full force and effect. The Treasurer of the American Legion Department of Connecticut serves as Administrator of the Fund, with full authority to take such decisions and actions as may be appropriate to the orderly and efficient management of the agency, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and consistent with the instructions and guidance of the State Fund Commission.

3. Ethics Policy - All agency staff, commission members and volunteers shall act with honesty, integrity, fairness and openness and shall fully conform to the requirements of the Connecticut Codes of Ethics as they may apply. Additionally, the following mission specific ethical rules shall apply:

- a. Non-discrimination - No person eligible to make application for assistance by virtue of wartime service and Connecticut residency shall be denied the opportunity to make application for assistance from the agency, to be interviewed, to receive prompt consideration of the request and to be informed in a timely manner of the disposition of the request. No applicant shall be denied assistance based on race, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, religious preference, citizenship, or membership/lack of membership in any veterans organization.

- b. Confidentiality - All personal and financial information submitted in support of the Application for Assistance shall be held as confidential and will be disclosed only with the consent of the applicant (Release of Information), or by Power of Attorney, Conservatorship, or Court Authority.
 - c. Discrimination Based on Character of Service - Applicants meeting the statutory (Conn. Gen. Statutes 27-103) definition of "veteran" shall suffer no discrimination if their active military service was terminated by a "General Discharge under Honorable Conditions" rather than by an "Honorable" discharge.
 - d. Discrimination Based on Circumstances of Service - Applicants meeting the statutory (Conn. Gen. Statutes 27-103) definition of "veteran" shall be afforded no special consideration nor suffer discrimination by reason of service in a particular branch of service (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard), component of service (Regular, Reserve, National Guard), era of service (Korea, Vietnam, etc.), rank (enlisted, officer, etc.), location of service (domestic or overseas, except as specified in Conn. Gen. Statutes 27-103), whether the duty was in a combat or combat support role, or by reason of receipt/lack of receipt of awards or other distinctions (Awards for Valor, Combat Infantryman's Badge, etc.).
 - e. Discrimination Based on Membership in a Veterans Organization - Applicants meeting the statutory (Conn. Gen. Statutes 27-103) definition of "veteran" shall be afforded no special consideration nor suffer discrimination based on their membership or lack of membership in any veterans organization (The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, etc.), nor shall any advantage or disadvantage accrue to holding or having held office in any such organization.
 - f. Impartiality - Adjudications of Applications for Assistance shall be made by the Administrator or Assistant Administrator based strictly on the statutes, bylaws, and the particular financial circumstances of the applicant, with the object of determining reasonable and appropriate assistance to be rendered. Adjudications will not be made on cases involving applicants related to or known to the person making the decision. In cases where the applicant is known to both the Administrator and Assistant Administrator, the Administrator shall make the determination of assistance to be granted.
4. Implementation and Enforcement - This policy shall take effect upon publication and shall apply to and be implemented by staff, commissioners, and volunteers. Enforcement of this policy shall be the responsibility of the Administrator. Any breaches of this policy shall be reported promptly to the Administrator, who shall make disposition of incidents of non-compliance, including such disciplinary action as may be appropriate. The Administrator shall report periodically to the State Fund Commission on the status of implementation of this policy.

Proponent/Contact
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Administrator