



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

ADVISORY OPINION NO. 89-20

### Acceptance of Tips by State Employees

The Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine (Prison) located in East Granby is a state owned museum operated by the Connecticut Historical Commission. The Prison is open from mid-May until the end of October. The Historical Commission hires summer workers who are responsible for several tasks including guide work and maintenance of the building and grounds. One of these workers, Mr. Christopher Riley, has asked if it would be a violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials to accept tips from tourists after he has given a tour of the Prison.

The definition of state employee in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials includes part-time employees. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 (m). Therefore, the summer workers at the Prison are covered by the restrictions of the Code.

State Personnel has determined a job classification and appropriate pay level for these summer workers. They should not be allowed to accept additional income from the public. To do so would be to use their state positions for financial gain in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(c). If the summer workers feel they are not adequately paid or are required to perform duties beyond those set forth in their job descriptions, then their avenues for recourse should be through state personnel.

By order of the Commission,

William A. Elrick  
Chairperson

Dated 7-17-89

