

DOCKET NUMBER 2010-50	)	OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF A	)	18-20 TRINITY STREET
	)	
COMPLAINT AGAINST	)	HARTFORD, CT 06106
	)	
MARGARET HOOPER	)	OCTOBER 27, 2010

### **STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER**

Pursuant to the Code of Ethics, General Statutes sections 1-79, et seq., Thomas K. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer for the Office of State Ethics (“OSE”), issued a Complaint against the respondent Margaret Hooper (“Hooper” or “Respondent”) for a violation of the Code of Ethics, Connecticut General Statutes § 1-84 (c). Based on the findings of a preliminary investigation by the Enforcement Division of the OSE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer has probable cause to believe, and the Respondent admits, that the Respondent received a free Department of Public Health (“DPH”) laboratory test by virtue of the Respondent’s state position, resulting in the Respondent’s personal financial gain, in violation of § 1-84 (c).

The Parties have entered into this Stipulation and Consent Order following issuance of the Complaint, but without adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein.

## I. STIPULATION

The Ethics Enforcement Officer and the Respondent stipulate to the following facts:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as the Planning Branch Chief at DPH.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was a "State Employee" as that term is defined in General Statutes § 1-79 (m).

3. On or about July 29, 2010, Respondent approached another DPH employee and requested that he perform a laboratory test (the "test") on a substance contained in a white envelope.

4. The envelope and its contents were brought into work by the Respondent and were not related to her job duties.

5. In response to the Respondent's request, on or about July 29, 2010, a DPH employee conducted a test with state equipment at the DPH laboratory on the unknown substance.

6. The test, which is not regularly performed for members of the public, was provided at no cost to the Respondent.

7. The market value of the test was two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).

8. The test was provided to the Respondent by virtue of her state position.

9. General Statutes §1-84 (c) states in pertinent part:

No public official or state employee...shall use his public office or position ... to obtain financial gain for himself . . .

10. The Respondent, by receiving a free test by virtue of her state position, used her public office or position to obtain financial gain for herself, in violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

11. The Respondent admits all facts set forth above and admits that, by engaging in such conduct, she violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

## **II. RESPONDENT'S POSITION**

1. The Respondent states that she was unaware of the market value of the test.

2. The Respondent states that she did not intentionally violate Code of Ethics, Connecticut General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Ethics Enforcement Officer of the Connecticut Office of State Ethics and the Respondent hereby enter into this Stipulation and Consent Order and hereby agree as follows:

## **III. JURISDICTION**

1. The Ethics Enforcement Officer is authorized to investigate the Respondent's conduct, to issue a Complaint against the Respondent, and to enter into this Stipulation and Consent Order.

2. The provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order apply to and are binding upon the undersigned Parties.

3. The Respondent hereby waives all objections and defenses to the jurisdiction of the Ethics Enforcement Officer and the Office of State Ethics over matters addressed in this Stipulation and Consent Order.

4. The Respondent waives any rights she may have under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 1-80, 1-82, 1-82a, 1-87 and 1-88, including the right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Ethics Enforcement Officer to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by General Statutes § 4-177 (c).

5. The Respondent consents to jurisdiction and venue in the Connecticut Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, in the event that the State of Connecticut seeks to enforce this Stipulation and Consent Order. The Respondent recognizes that the Connecticut Superior Court has the authority to specifically enforce the provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order, including the authority to award equitable relief.

6. The terms set forth herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other existing or future statutory, regulatory, or other legal obligation that may be applicable to the Respondent.

7. The Respondent has been informed, and understands, that she has a right to counsel and has expressly, knowingly, and voluntarily waived such right.

#### **IV. ORDER**

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to General Statutes § 4-177 (c), the Office of State Ethics ORDERS as follows:

1. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (1), the Office of State Ethics orders, and the Respondent agrees, to cease and desist from any future violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

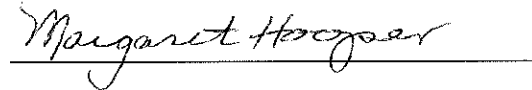
2. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (3), the Office of State Ethics orders, and the Respondent agrees, that the Respondent pay civil penalties to the State in

the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for her violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

3. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (d), the Office of State Ethics orders, and the Respondent agrees, that the Respondent pay damages to the State in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), which amount reflects the financial gain or advantage the Respondent knowingly received as a result of her violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

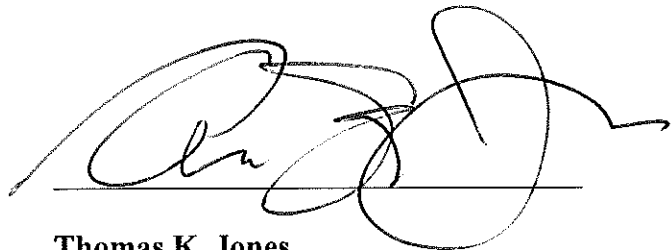
**WHEREFORE**, the Ethics Enforcement Officer and the Respondent hereby execute this Stipulation and Consent Order dated Nov. 2, 2010.

Dated: November 2, 2010



**Margaret Hooper**  
Respondent  
251 Princeton Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dated: November 2, 2010



**Thomas K. Jones**  
Ethics Enforcement Officer,  
Enforcement Division,  
State of Connecticut Office of State Ethics  
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