



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 14, 2018

**CONTACT:** Nancy Nicolescu (860) 263-2397  
[nancy.nicolescu@ct.gov](mailto:nancy.nicolescu@ct.gov)

## **Department of Public Health Official Pays Fine for Hotel Stay**

Raffaella Coler of Rocky Hill, CT paid a \$250 civil penalty for violating the Code of Ethics for using her state position to seek and receive two nights of free hotel stay from the business entity that organized an Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) conference.

As the Director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services (“OEMS”) at the Department of Public Health (“DPH”), Ms. Coler was responsible for oversight of state-established regional EMS councils, which are comprised of, among others, representatives from private companies.

In 2017, the councils established a private business that organized an EMS-related conference that took place over a 4-day period in late May and early June in Uncasville, Connecticut. Prior to attending the EMS-related conference, Ms. Coler requested two free nights at the hotel where the conference was being held. Ms. Coler made her request to individuals who held positions in businesses or other entities regulated by OEMS and the DPH.

According to the stipulation and consent order finalized on August 13, 2018 with the Office of State Ethics, by seeking and obtaining two nights free at a hotel by virtue of her state position, Ms. Coler violated Section 1-84 (c) of the Code, that states a public official or state employee is prohibited from using her position to obtain personal financial gain.

“State employees and public officials generally cannot use their positions to get personal benefits, such as hotel stays, from those they regulate,” said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson.

###

View: Stipulation and Consent Order – [Docket 2017-28](#)

*The Connecticut Office of State Ethics mission is to ensure honesty, integrity and accountability in state government through education, interpretation and enforcement of the State of Connecticut Code of Ethics. To contact us please visit our website at [www.ct.gov/ethics](http://www.ct.gov/ethics) or call us at (860) 263-2400.*