

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
COMMISSION CASE NO. 54-14**

IN THE MATTER OF CHUKWEUMEK :	Administrative Action
IBEKU, M.D., PHYSICIAN :	
SPECIALIST I, DEPARTMENT OF :	CONSENT ORDER
HUMAN SERVICES :	
_____ :	

WHEREAS, the State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) is authorized to initiate, receive, investigate, review and hear complaints regarding violations of the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law, *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq.* (“Conflicts Law”), applicable rules of the Commission, *N.J.A.C. 19:61-1.1 et seq.*, the Uniform Ethics Code, and any agency code of ethics by any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee; and

WHEREAS, this matter was brought before the Commission by a complaint filed with the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted an investigation of all the matters and issues raised by the complaint; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the investigation, the Commission and Chukwuemek Ibeku, M.D. (“Dr. Ibeku”) desire to enter into a final and complete resolution of all of the matters and issues raised thereby;

IT IS THEREFORE agreed by the parties as follows:

1. Dr. Ibeku started his State employment as a physician at the North Jersey Developmental Center (“North Jersey”) in 2002. In 2012, he transferred to the Greenbrook Medical Center. Both North Jersey and the Greenbrook Medical Center are administered by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (“DDD”) within the Department of Human Services (“DHS”).

2. On or about April of 2014, Dr. Ibeku asked two of his colleagues employed by DDD at North Jersey to sign letters to Kean University’s (“Kean”) Financial Aid Office on behalf of his niece. The letters explained his niece’s circumstances and requested assistance from Kean in securing financial aid for her.

3. Dr. Ibeku drafted the letters for his colleagues to sign. The letters were printed on State letterhead, used his colleagues’ State titles and were addressed to the Financial Aid Office at Kean University. One of the letters stated, “[h]elp her get any aid that will enable her accomplish her studies.” The other letter stated, “[p]lease assist her in any way you can so that she can complete her studies”.

4. The colleagues signed the letters and submitted them to Kean per Dr. Ibeku’s request.

5. The letters submitted to Kean on behalf of Dr. Ibeku’s niece were not related to the official duties of Dr. Ibeku or the colleagues who signed and submitted the letters.

6. It is the Commission’s position that Dr. Ibeku violated section 23(e)(3) of the Conflicts Law by using State letterhead and his colleagues’ State titles to assist in getting financial aid from Kean University for his niece, and that his actions also violated section 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law by creating the appearance that he violated the public trust.

7. It is Dr. Ibeku's position that the letters submitted by his colleagues were for the purposes of identification only. Dr. Ibeku's niece was already entitled to financial aid by virtue of her status as a tax payer and official resident of New Jersey. At the time the letters were submitted, Dr Ibeku and his colleagues were not aware that it was impermissible to use State letterhead to write a personal recommendation letter for his niece.

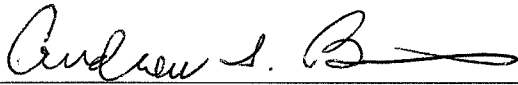
8. The parties agree to enter into this Consent Order in settlement of all matters and issues that are involved herein. In consideration thereof, Dr. Ibeku agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$500.00.



Chukwuemek Ibeku

Dated:

9/3/2015



State Ethics Commission
By: Andrew S. Berns, Chair

Dated:

5/19/15



State Ethics Commission
By: Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director

Dated:

5/19/15