

**Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
(Autism Council)**

NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

Approved by State Ethics Commission on May 24, 2011

Background:

The Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism was created by State appropriation in 1999 and has been issuing research, clinical and educational enhancement grants since 2000. The Council was transitioned into the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) in 2007, per P.L. 2007 c.168. A major activity of the Council is to establish a Center of Excellence in the State for the purpose of conducting basic science and clinical research studies, and clinical diagnosis and treatment initiatives. The goal is to advance the understanding of the potential causes of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and promote best practices in the treatment of ASDs. The Council, through the DHSS, awards grants to public and private nonprofit entities, funded by a one dollar surcharge from motor vehicle violations and fines in New Jersey.

Council Membership:

The Council membership includes a total of fourteen persons with seven persons to be appointed by the Governor (two of whom shall be members of the public who do not occupy a leadership position in any of the organizations represented on the council, of which two members one shall be a person with a diagnosis of autism, or autism spectrum disorder, or the family member of such a person, four of whom shall be appointed in consultation with the presidents of academic institutions in this State that are engaged in autism research, and one of whom shall be a representative of a health care organization with demonstrated clinical expertise in the evaluation and treatment of autism spectrum disorders); one person to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one person to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; one person to be appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services; and four persons, also to be appointed by the Governor, who represent autism organizations in New Jersey each of whom shall represent no more than one such organization.

Code of Ethics and Conduct:

Service as an Autism Council Member holds certain expectations in terms of involvement, participation, support and commitment to the Autism Council's mission, as well as the adherence to the relevant sections of the Conflict Law, N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq.

Section 16(a) provides:

No special State officer or employee, nor any partnership, firm or corporation in which he has an interest, nor any partner, officer or employee of any such partnership, firm or corporation, shall represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of, or agree to represent, appear for or negotiate on behalf of, any person or party other than the State in

connection with any cause, proceeding, application or other matter pending before the particular office, bureau, board, council, commission, authority, agency, fund or system in which such special State officer or employee holds office or employment.

Section 23(e) (1) provides:

No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his duties in the public interest.

Section 23(e) (3) provides:

No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should use or attempt to use his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for himself or others.

Section 23(e)(4) provides:

No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should act in his official capacity in any matter wherein he has a direct or indirect personal financial interest that might reasonably be expected to impair his objectivity or independence of judgment.

Section 23(e) (7) provides:

No State officer or employee or special State officer or employee should knowingly act in any way that might reasonably be expected to create an impression or suspicion among the public having knowledge of his acts that he may be engaged in conduct violative of his trust as a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee.

Section 25 provides:

No State officer or employee, special State officer or employee, or member of the Legislature shall willfully disclose to any person, whether or not for pecuniary gain, any information not generally available to members of the public, which he receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his official duties. No State officer or employee, special State officer or employee, or member of the Legislature shall use for the purpose of pecuniary gain, whether directly or indirectly, any information not generally available to members of the public, which he receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his official duties.

In compliance with the Conflict Law the following constitute the Code of Ethics for the Autism Council Members:

1. All Autism Council Members and employees are covered by this Code of Ethics and the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 19:61-1.1 et seq.
2. No Autism Council Member or employee should have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business, transaction or professional activity, which are in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest.
3. No Autism Council Member or employee should undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to impair his/her objectivity, and independence of judgment in the exercise of his/her official duties.
4. No Autism Council Member or employee should knowingly act in any way that might reasonably be expected to create an impression, or suspicion among the

- public, having knowledge of the acts that he/she may be engaged in conduct violative of his/her trust as a special State Officer or employee.
5. No Autism Council Member or employee should disclose confidential information acquired by him or her in the course of his or her duties as an Autism Council Member or employee, or by reason of his or her position as an Autism Council Member or employee, nor use such information to further his or her personal interest.
 6. The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Ethics Liaison Officer is the Autism Council's official Ethics Liaison officer to the State of New Jersey Ethics Commission.
 7. An Autism Council Member cannot write a letter of support for a grant application for funding by the Autism Council.
 8. An Autism Council Member cannot sign a grant application on behalf of his/her institution/employer when the institution/employer are applying to the Autism Council for funding.
 9. Autism Council Members are not permitted to be primary investigators, co-investigators, sub-grantees or collaborators on grant applications submitted to the Autism Council.
 10. Autism Council Members may not attend a scientific peer review panel meeting, or interact with the independent scientific peer reviewers in relation to the Autism Council grant applications and the review process for grant awards.
 11. An Autism Council Member whose institution/employer applies for an Autism Council grant is barred from any official involvement with that grant application.
 12. No Autism Council Member or employee should attempt to use his/her official capacity to secure unwarranted privileges, or advantages for themselves or others.
 13. No Autism Council member or employee should act in his/her official capacity in any manner wherein he/she has a direct or indirect personal financial interest that might reasonably be expected to impair his/her objectivity or independence of judgment.
 14. No Autism Council Member or employee should accept any gift, favor, service or other thing of value under circumstances from which it might be reasonably inferred that such a gift, service or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing him/her in the discharge of his/her official duties as an Autism Council Member.