



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Steven Rosen
Chair

Kenita V. Barrow
Vice Chair

June 24, 2021

Waiver 21-06-008

Pursuant to § 19A-12(b)(1)(B) of the Public Ethics Law, a public employee must not be employed by a business that negotiates or contracts with the County agency with which the public employee is affiliated, unless the Ethics Commission grants a waiver.

Allelign Sisay is a Social Worker in the Aging and Disability Services Unit at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). He requests a waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b)(1)(B) so that he can be employed by Holy Cross Hospital as a Crisis Psychiatric Evaluation Therapist. Holy Cross Hospital has contracts with DHHS.

Mr. Sisay's outside employment with Holy Cross Hospital has no relationship to any contracts DHHS has with the hospital, and his employment with DHHS as a Social Worker does not involve the monitoring or negotiation of any contract with the hospital.

Pursuant to § 19A-8(b)(3) of the Public Ethics Law, the Ethics Commission may grant a waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b) if the Ethics Commission concludes that the proposed employment is not likely to create an actual conflict of interest. Upon a review of the waiver request and the Department's concurrence in and support for the request, the Commission finds that there is no actual conflict of interest. Pursuant to the standard of § 19A-8(b)(3), the Commission grants the waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b). The waiver is conditioned on Mr. Sisay not referring, in his County capacity, DHHS clients to Holy Cross Hospital. Mr. Sisay has committed to recuse himself in the event there are any known cross-over clients except during the pendency of a medical emergency.

In reaching this decision, the Commission has relied upon the facts as presented by Mr. Sisay.

For the Commission:

Susan Beard, Chair

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100 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROOM 204, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
OFFICE: 240.777.6670 FAX: 240.777.6672