



**NEWS FROM:
THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JCOPE REACHES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH FORMER
DOCCS EMPLOYEE FOR ETHICS LAW VIOLATIONS**

Admits Improper Involvement in Hiring of Nephew

The Joint Commission on Public Ethics (“Commission”) today announced that it has reached an agreement with a former employee of the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (“DOCCS”) for violating ethics law for his involvement in the hiring of his nephew for a position at the prison where he worked.

William Weaver, an Industry Superintendent at the Auburn Correctional Facility for more than 25 years, agreed to pay a \$1,500 fine to settle the charges stemming from the March 2014 hiring of his nephew. Weaver admitted that he supervised a subordinate during the interview process and directly took part in selecting his nephew for the job over another candidate, a violation of State Public Officers Law, which says that no employee should take part in a decision to hire a relative for a paid position at or for any state agency.

“Laws barring nepotism in hiring at state agencies exist for good reasons, as demonstrated by this case,” said Commission Executive Director Seth H. Agata. “All candidates for jobs should be and deserve to be considered on their individual merits without considering family connections, and state employees, especially supervisors, know they may not take part in decisions related to the hiring of a relative.”

The Commission wishes to thank the DOCCS Office of Special Investigations for its assistance in conducting interviews at Auburn.

To read the Commission’s settlement with Weaver, click [here](#).