

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION  
CASE NO. 16-003**

**IN RE: PARTRICK HOOVER  
ALLEGED VIOLATION OF KRS CHAPTER 11A**

**INITIATING ORDER  
Initiation of Administrative Proceeding  
And Formal Complaint**

The Executive Branch Ethics Commission (the “Commission”), upon its own motion, initiated a preliminary investigation of Patrick Hoover (the “Respondent”), pursuant to KRS 11A.080(1), on July 24, 2015.

At all relevant times the Respondent was a “public servant” as defined in KRS 11A.010(9), and thus subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

The Commission initiated the preliminary investigation to determine whether it has sufficient probable cause to believe the Respondent violated provisions of KRS Chapter 11A, the Executive Branch Code of Ethics (also referred to herein as the “Ethics Code”).

The Commission focused its investigation upon the Respondent’s possible violation of the Ethics Code by using his influence in a matter that involved a substantial conflict between her personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest; influencing a public agency in derogation of the state at large; using his official position to give himself a financial gain and an advantage in derogation of the public interest at large; using his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself in derogation of the public interest; and failing to avoid all conduct which might in any way lead members of the general public to conclude that he was using his official position to further his professional or private interest.

The Commission notified the Respondent of the preliminary investigation by letter dated July 28, 2015.

During the course of the investigation, the Commission found probable cause to believe that violations of KRS Chapter 11A had occurred and voted April 19, 2016, to initiate an administrative proceeding, pursuant to KRS 11A.080(4)(b) and KRS Chapter 13B, to determine whether the Respondent violated the Ethics Code as set forth in the Allegations of Violations, attached hereto and incorporated fully herein as Appendix A to this Initiating Order.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

1. This Initiating Order and Appendix shall be served on the Respondent pursuant to KRS 13B.050(2) by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the Respondent.

2. The Respondent shall file his answer to this Initiating Order within twenty (20) days from the date of service, verifying the truth and accuracy of any answer submitted.

3. The Respondent shall appear at a hearing to be scheduled by subsequent order and be prepared to defend against the Commission's allegations that he committed the Ethics Code violations set forth in the Allegation of Violations, attached hereto and incorporated fully herein as Appendix A to this Initiating Order.

4. The Commission will request the designation of a Hearing Officer by the Administrative Hearings Branch of the Office of the Attorney General, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-8204.

5. The Commission is represented by Misty Dugger Judy, General Counsel,

and Kathryn H. Gabhart, Executive Director as co-Counsel. They may be contacted through the Commission's office at (502) 564-7954.

6. All original material shall be submitted to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission, #3 Fountain Place, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. A copy of all materials shall be served on the designated Hearing Officer.

7. The Respondent has the right to legal counsel during this proceeding. If the Respondent retains legal counsel, that person shall file an appearance with the Commission, and thereafter all correspondence from the Commission to the Respondent shall be mailed or delivered to the Respondent's attorney.

8. The Respondent has the right to examine upon request, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing, a list of witnesses the Commission expects to call at the hearing, any evidence that will be used at the hearing and any exculpatory information in the Commission's possession.

9. The Respondent has the right to subpoena witnesses on his own behalf. If the Respondent subpoenas witnesses, he shall pay for all costs associated with the subpoenas' issuance, including any applicable witness fees.

10. If the Respondent fails to attend or participate as required at any stage of the administrative hearing process without good cause shown, he may be held in default pursuant to KRS 13B.050(3)(h).

11. The Respondent has a right to appeal any final Commission order to the Franklin Circuit Court within thirty (30) days of service.

12. This proceeding is subject to KRS Chapter 11A, the Commission's regulations, the provisions of KRS Chapter 13B, and any Order issued by the

Commission or its hearing officer issued during this administrative proceeding.

So ordered this 19th day of April 2016.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION:**



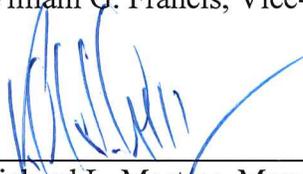
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W. David Denton, Chair



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William G. Francis, Vice-Chair



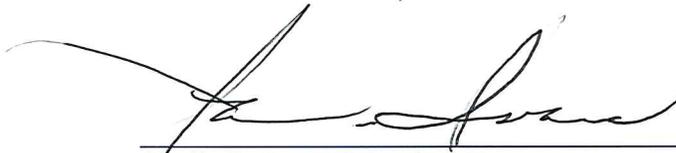
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Richard L. Masters, Member

Absent

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Martin E. Johnstone, Member



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Sheila R. Isaac, Member

**APPENDIX A  
CASE NO. 16-003  
INITIATING ORDER**

**ALLEGATION OF VIOLATIONS**

The Respondent, Patrick Hoover, was at all relevant times an employee of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, serving in the Department of Adult Corrections, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. As such, the Respondent was subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. KRS 11A.010(9)(h).

During the course of its preliminary investigation, the Commission found probable cause to believe that Patrick Hoover committed the following violations:

**COUNT I**

Patrick Hoover (“Hoover”), during his course of employment as a Probation and Parole Officer, Department of Adult Corrections (“Department”), Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, used his official position to use or attempt to use any means to influence his agency in derogation of the state at large; used or attempted to use his influence in any matter which involved a substantial conflict between his personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest; and used or attempted to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

Specifically, between 2012 and 2014, on multiple occasions, Hoover used his position as Probation and Parole Officer and access to female offenders who were under his supervision, to engage in inappropriate relationships with Victim A<sup>1</sup> including exchanging sexually explicit text messages and photos. Hoover did so to fulfill his own prurient interests, which conflicted with his duties in the public interest. Hoover also used his position and access to Victim A to

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<sup>1</sup> All individuals who were alleged victims of the Respondent will be referred to as Victim A, B, C, and so forth, for the purposes of this Initiating Order to preserve the victim’s privacy until otherwise directed to identify these individuals by an order of the Hearing Officer.

violate multiple Department policies.

These facts constitute a violation of KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), and (d) and KRS 11A.020(2), which provide as follows:

(1) No public servant, by himself or through others, shall knowingly:

- (a) Use or attempt to use his influence in any matter which involves a substantial conflict between his personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest;
- (b) Use or attempt to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large;

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- (d) Use or attempt to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

(2) If a public servant appears before a state agency, he shall avoid all conduct which might in any way lead members of the general public to conclude that he is using his official position to further his professional or private interest.

## COUNT II

Patrick Hoover (“Hoover”), during his course of employment as a Probation and Parole Officer, Department of Adult Corrections (“Department”), Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, used his official position to use or attempt to use any means to influence his agency in derogation of the state at large; used or attempted to use his influence in any matter which involved a substantial conflict between his personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest; and used or attempted to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

Specifically, between 2012 and 2014, on multiple occasions, Hoover used his position as Probation and Parole Officer and access to female offenders who were under his supervision, to engage in an inappropriate relationship with Victim B, including exchanging sexually explicit

text messages and photos. Hoover did so to fulfill his own prurient interests, which conflicted with his duties in the public interest. Hoover also used his position and access to the Victim B to violate multiple Department policies.

These facts constitute a violation of KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), and (d) and KRS 11A.020(2) which provide as follows:

- (1) No public servant, by himself or through others, shall knowingly:
  - (a) Use or attempt to use his influence in any matter which involves a substantial conflict between his personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest;
  - (b) Use or attempt to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large;  
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  - (d) Use or attempt to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.
  
- (2) If a public servant appears before a state agency, he shall avoid all conduct which might in any way lead members of the general public to conclude that he is using his official position to further his professional or private interest.

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