

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This agreement made and entered into between the Executive Branch Ethics Commission (hereinafter the “Commission”) and Patrick Hoover.

WHEREAS, this agreement involves the matter styled *Executive Branch Ethics Commission v. Patrick Hoover*, Case No. 16-003;

WHEREAS, the Commission is designated by statute as the agency responsible for enforcing the Executive Branch Code of Ethics, KRS Chapter 11A;

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2016, the Commission alleged facts in an Initiating Order that Patrick Hoover violated the Executive Branch Code of Ethics codified at KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), and (d) and KR 11A.020(2);

WHEREAS, Patrick Hoover was at all relevant times mentioned in the Initiating Order a “public servant” as defined in KRS 11A.010(9) and thus subject to the Executive Branch Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Hoover indicates his desire to resolve all issues in this action by the execution of a Settlement Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in settlement of the above allegations, the Commission and Patrick Hoover agree, pursuant to KRS 11A.100, as follows:

1. The Commission agrees to withdraw Count II of the Appendix A to the Commission’s Initiating Order of April 19, 2016.
2. Patrick Hoover admits that he committed violations of the Executive Branch Code of Ethics codified at KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), and (d) and KRS 11A.020(2), as stated in Count I of Appendix A to the Commission’s Initiating Order of April 19, 2016, attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.
3. Patrick Hoover agrees to pay the Commission a civil penalty of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) on or before October 14, 2016.
4. Patrick Hoover agrees that upon the Agreed Final Order being issued by the Commission that he waives all rights to any further administrative process or appeal pursuant to KRS 13B.140 thereon.
5. Patrick Hoover agrees that upon the Agreed Final Order being issued by the Commission to abstain from seeking future employment with the executive branch of state government for a period of five (5) years.

6. The parties further agree that the acceptance of this Settlement Agreement and Agreed Final Order by both parties, and the fulfillment of its express terms, is in full accord and satisfaction of the herein referenced *Executive Branch Ethics Commission v. Patrick Hoover*, Case No. 16-003.

5. This Settlement Agreement constitutes a public reprimand to Patrick Hoover, a copy of which will be provided to his appointing authority pursuant to KRS 11A.100(3)(c).

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have caused this agreement to be executed:



Patrick Hoover

9/8/16

Date

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION:



W. David Denton, Chair

9-19-16

Date



William G. Francis, Vice-Chair

9-19-16

Date



Sheila R. Isaac, Member

9/19/16

Date



Christopher L. Thacker, Member

9/19/16

Date



Theresa Fritz Camoriano, Member

9-19-16

Date

**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 an inappropriate relationships with Victim A¹ 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

¹ 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.