



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION**

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AUDREY TAYSE HAYNES

CAPITAL COMPLEX EAST  
1025 CAPITAL CENTER DRIVE, SUITE #104  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601  
(502) 564-7954  
FAX: (502) 696-5091  
[HTTPS://ETHICS.KY.GOV/](https://ethics.ky.gov/)

SUSAN STOKLEY CLARY  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
  
SUCHETA MEENA MOHANTY  
**GENERAL COUNSEL**

**Press Release Date:**  
**January 21, 2026**

**Contact: Susan Stokley Clary**  
**(502) 564-7954**  
**[Susan.Clary@ky.gov](mailto:Susan.Clary@ky.gov)**

FRANKFORT, KY – At its January 21, 2026 meeting, the Executive Branch Ethics Commission (“the Commission”) found Paul D. Kincheloe of Paintsville, Kentucky, in violation of KRS Chapter 11A, the Executive Branch Code of Ethics.

In a Settlement Agreement, approved by the Commission, Paul D. Kincheloe, Environmental Scientist III, Energy & Environment Cabinet admitted to two (2) counts of violating the Code of Ethics, KRS 11A.020(1)(c) and (d). Specifically, from the period of December 23, 2023 through August 22, 2024, Paul D. Kincheloe used his state cell phone for multiple personal calls, with several calls while on duty. Additionally, from December 2022 through July 2025, Paul D. Kincheloe had the privilege of hunting on private land that was regulated by the Division of Oil and Gas, Energy & Environment Cabinet and therefore subject to inspection or investigation by Paul D. Kincheloe.

Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Paul D. Kincheloe agreed to pay a \$1,000.00 civil penalty, receive a public reprimand, and waive any right to appeal. The Commission concluded the matter by issuing an Agreed Final Order.