

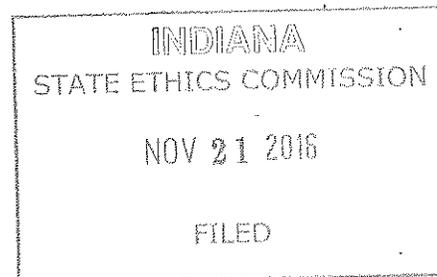


Michael R. Pence, Governor
State of Indiana

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 7083
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46207-7083

John J. Wernert, M.D., Secretary

November 21, 2016
Mr. James Clevenger, Chair
Indiana State Ethics Commission
315 W. Ohio Street, Room 104
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202



RE: Waiver of gift rule for conference tickets received by Peggy Welch, Chief Advocacy Officer, FSSA

As the Ethics Officer of the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration ("FSSA"), I respectfully waive application of 42 Indiana Administrative Code 1-5-1 as applied to a conference ticket received by Peggy Welch, Chief Advocacy Officer, for the 2016 Indiana Conference for Women. The conference was held at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 26, 2016. The cost to purchase a ticket was \$250. In this situation I believe granting a waiver from the gift rule meets the public interest and poses no conflict of interest issues or other ethical concerns.

Deborah Collins Stevens, co-founder of the Indiana Conference for Women, co-founder of the Marshall Goldsmith Executive Coaching and Leadership Academy, and managing partner for the Center for Innovative Leadership, provided a free ticket to Ms. Welch. I am told that there were several free tickets made available to members of the community and Ms. Welch was one of them. I understand that Ms. Stevens does not have a business relationship with the agency and was not seeking to influence an action by the agency, but instead Ms. Stevens is a friend of Ms. Welch. The conference's purpose is to celebrate the success of Hoosier women from around the state of all ages, backgrounds and career stages. The conference provided Ms. Welch with an opportunity to discuss human services issues, network, learn from and inform attendees on how FSSA may contribute to the welfare of those in attendance at the conference.

For the above reasons, I am granting the waiver sought by Ms. Welch. Please feel free to contact me at 317.234.3884 or Allison.taylor@fssa.in.gov if you should have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,

Allison Taylor
FSSA General Counsel and Ethics Officer

