

**First Waivers Granted for Preexisting Relationships:** Ethics Rules 4.22 (for conflicts of interest) and 5.25 (for lobbyists and legislative liaisons) each provide for waivers of certain Ethics Rules based on a preexisting relationship between a state officer or employee and others under the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission. At its meeting on Friday, January 9, 2015, the Commission granted the first three waivers, all under Rule 5.25.

One waiver was based on the marital status of a legislative employee whose spouse is a legislative liaison. Another was based on the relationship between a legislator and his sister-in-law who is a legislative liaison. The third was based on the relationship between a state employee and her son, former husband and spouse of her former husband, all of whom are executive lobbyists for the state employee's agency and with whom she maintains friendly relationships.

The Commission has exclusive authority and discretion to grant a waiver on a case-by-case basis, based upon the totality of circumstances and a finding that the purposes of the Ethics Rules will not be impeded or hindered by a waiver. An application for a waiver must be in writing submitted to the Commission.