

# **KENTUCKY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY**

Approval Date: August 17, 2006

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### Adoption of Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy:

Pursuant to the provisions of KRS 61.645, the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Kentucky Retirement Systems (“KRS”) is permitted to adopt procedures necessary to conduct the business of the Retirement Systems as needed. The law shall control if any inconsistency exists between the law and this policy.

### Statement of Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy:

KRS recognizes the need to maintain the public’s confidence and trust in the integrity of KRS and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Individuals associated with KRS must not engage in activities that have the potential to become a conflict of interest with their association with KRS. Likewise, individuals associated with KRS must not release information about KRS or any of its members that would breach any duty to protect such information. KRS recognizes the need to establish procedures to prevent such conflicts or breaches.

### Purpose:

The purpose of this Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy is to: a) establish what individuals are subject to conflict of interest provisions of KRS; b) establish the specific standards of conduct with regard to conflict of interest; c) establish standards with regard to the confidentiality of information; and d) establish procedures for the obtaining of written conflict of interest statements and confidentiality agreements from certain individuals.

## **PROCEDURES REGARDING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

### Section 1: Application of Policy

1. This policy shall apply to all individuals who have a statutory, contractual or working relationship with KRS.
2. Individuals affected by this policy shall include, but are not limited to:
  - A. Employees of KRS;
  - B. The Board;
  - C. Independent contractors of KRS; and
  - D. Vendors of KRS.

Section 2: Standards of Conduct Regarding Conflicts of Interest

1. Individuals have an obligation to diligently identify, disclose, avoid, and manage conflicts of interest.
2. Potential conflicts of interest exist when an individual or an individual's family may be directly or indirectly financially impacted, whether favorably or detrimentally, by a decision made by KRS in which the individual participates.
3. Individuals and their family members should not enter into any contract with KRS or any agency doing business with KRS, for financial gain, apart from an employment contract, without full disclosure and satisfactory management of any potential conflict of interest in accordance with the Executive Branch Code of Ethics.
4. Individuals should not be involved in the decision to hire or in the supervision of any member of their immediate family.
5. Individuals should not conduct business or participate in decisions with a company or agency in which the individual or family member is employed or is actively seeking employment.
6. Individuals should not accept gifts, loans, gratuities, discounts, favors, hospitality, services, or other compensation under circumstances from which it could reasonably be inferred that a major purpose of the donor is to influence the individual in the performance of their duties.
7. Individuals must avoid all conduct which in any way might lead the public to believe that the individual is using his or her position with KRS to further a professional or private interest.
8. Individuals not covered by the conflict of interest provisions under KRS Chapter 11A must not violate any conflict of interest statute or principle by the performance of their duties with KRS. These individuals must not engage directly or indirectly in any financial or other transaction with a trustee or employee of KRS that would violate the standards of the Executive Branch Ethics provisions, as set forth in KRS Chapter 11A.

Section 3: Standards of Conduct Regarding Confidentiality

1. Individuals associated with KRS may be granted access to confidential information in the course of an employment, Board or contractual relationship with KRS.
2. This information may include, but is not limited to, individual member information, including but not limited to, Social Security numbers, names, addresses, phone numbers, birth dates, beneficiaries, health insurance information, Personal Identification Numbers (PIN), as well as documents, records, programs, files, scientific or technical information, or other information made available to individuals for purposes of completing their obligations to KRS.

3. These individuals have a duty to keep confidential the information to which they are granted access as a result of their association with KRS.
4. KRS and these individuals shall also recognize that confidential member information is protected under KRS 61.661.

Section 4: Written Statements of Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

1. On an annual basis, the Executive Director of KRS, the members of the Board, any independent contractors and vendors of KRS shall file a written conflict of interest statement on the form(s) provided by KRS and adopted by the Board of Trustees.
2. Upon proposal for contract, and continuing on an annual basis, any independent contractors and vendors of KRS shall file a written confidentiality agreement on the form provided by KRS and adopted by the Board of Trustees. This form may be amended to conform to specific needs of the individual vendor or contractor as deemed necessary.
3. Other employees of KRS may also be requested to file a written conflict of interest statement as needed or requested by the Board.
4. An individual who abstains from involvement in an official decision because of a personal or private interest must disclose that fact in writing to his or her supervisor or contact person at KRS.

**ETHICS AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Individuals as set forth above shall conform to the Executive Branch Code of Ethics with regard to conflicts of interests as set forth in KRS Chapter 11A. Individuals as set forth above shall conform to the confidentiality requirements of KRS 61.661.