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## Publication of Information in the Public Interest

### Related to Complaint 26-08

#### **Ethic Rule 6.9 Confidentiality of Complaint or Investigation.**

“Unless the Commission determines that a complaint or a formal investigation should be made public, all complaints and formal investigations, including documents and discussions in executive session, shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed[.] ... The Commission may make a complaint or formal investigation and any documents relating thereto public at any time it deems release of that information to be in the public interest.”

At the May 14, 2026 Ethics Commission Meeting, the Commission determined that the following information relative to Complaint 26-08 was necessary for the purpose of public transparency and education:

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The Oklahoma Ethics Commission dismissed Complaint 26-08 during its May 14, 2026 Commission Meeting. The matter involved a former state employee and conduct the Commission determined constituted a *de minimis* violation of the Ethics Rules under the specific circumstances presented. Specifically, the employee utilized their office for personal gain in violation of Ethics Rule 4.4. After considering the facts and context of the matter, the Commission concluded that an educational response was more appropriate than formal enforcement action.

The Commission encourages all state officers and employees to familiarize themselves with Oklahoma’s Conflict of Interest Rules and the ethical obligations associated with public service. Even seemingly minor conflicts can erode public confidence and create concerns regarding fairness and transparency in government decision-making.

The Ethics Commission remains committed to proactive education and compliance efforts. Staff has previously conducted targeted ethics training with the agency involved in this matter and continues to make training and educational resources available to state agencies across Oklahoma. Resources regarding Conflict of Interest requirements and other Ethics Rules are available at [ethics.ok.gov](https://ethics.ok.gov).