

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Crisco 2008

File No. 2008-082

**AGREEMENT CONTAINING CONSENT ORDER FOR VIOLATION OF
CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 9-8**

This Agreement, by and between Concetta Coppola, of the City of New Haven, County of New Haven, State of Connecticut ("Respondent") and the authorized representative of the State Elections Enforcement Commission is entered into in accordance with Section 9-7b-54 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and Section 4-177(c) of the General Statutes of Connecticut. In accordance herewith, the parties agree that:

1. State Senator Joseph J. Crisco,¹ via the candidate committee "Crisco 2008," was an applicant for a grant of public monies from the Citizen's Election Fund ("CEF") in order to fund his 2008 campaign for re-election as state senator.
2. At its meeting on July 2, 2008, the Commission, pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a), initiated an investigation into whether any election laws were violated in connection with the Senator Crisco's 2008 campaign for re-election as state senator.
3. On or about December 4, 2007, Respondent notarized an Affidavit of Intent to Abide (SEEC Form CEP 10) for Robert Goodman, the purported treasurer of "Crisco 2008." Respondent is a notary public and an employee of Mr. Goodman.
4. On or about April 28, 2008, Respondent notarized an amended Affidavit of Intent to Abide (SEEC Form CEP 10) for Mr. Goodman. The amended affidavit contained initials and a signature that were purportedly those of Robert Goodman.
5. On both the December 4, 2007 and April 28, 2008 Affidavits of the purported treasurer, the initials and signatures of Robert Goodman were not made by Mr. Goodman. On the December 4, 2007 Affidavit, Mr. Crisco signed Mr. Goodman's name and Respondent notarized the signature in Mr. Crisco's presence. With respect to the April 28, 2008 Affidavit, while in Mr. Crisco's presence, Respondent signed Mr. Goodman's name and authenticated his purported signature as a notary public.
6. On each page of the Affidavit of Intent to Abide form (SEEC Form CEP 10), the following statement appears: "Notice: Making a false statement on this form may subject you to criminal penalties, including but not limited to, imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to two thousand dollars, or both."
7. Connecticut General Statutes § 9-8, provides in pertinent part:

*Any person who makes a false statement in any statement
required to be signed under the penalties of false statement*

¹ The findings with respect to Sen. Crisco are addressed in a separate document.

under this title and, except as otherwise provided by law, any person who signs the name of another to any such statement shall be guilty of false statement, which shall be deemed to have been committed in the town where such statement is filed and shall be subject to the penalties provided for false statement. [Emphasis added.]

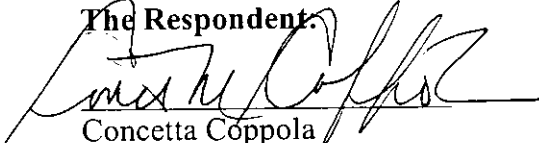
8. The Commission concludes that Respondent's conduct constituted three separate civil violations of General Statutes § 9-8 between the December 4, 2007 and April 28, 2008 Affidavits for the inauthentic signature and the two false notarizations. Respondent maintains that she did not have the requisite intent necessary to find a criminal violation of this statute for the aforesaid conduct..
9. On or about April 28, 2008, a CEP "Application for Public Grant Dollars" (SEEC Form CEP 15) pursuant to General Statutes § 9-706 was signed in the presence of Respondent. The Application contained initials and signatures that were purportedly those of Mr. Goodman.
10. Connecticut General Statutes § 9-706, provides in pertinent part:
 - (a) (1) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a primary campaign, . . .
 - (b) The application *shall include a written certification that:*
 - . . .
 - (5) The campaign treasurer of the candidate committee will:
 - (A) Comply with the provisions of chapters 155 and 157, and (B) maintain and furnish all records required pursuant to chapters 155 and 157 and any regulation adopted pursuant to such chapters; . . . [Emphasis added.]
11. The purported initials and signature of Mr. Goodman on the Application for Public Grant Dollars were not made by Mr. Goodman. In Mr. Crisco's presence, Respondent signed Mr. Goodman's name on the application.
12. On each page of the "Application for Public Grant Dollars" (SEEC Form CEP 15), the following statement appears: "Notice: Making a false statement on this form may subject you to criminal penalties, including but not limited to, imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to two thousand dollars, or both."
13. The Commission concludes that Respondent's conduct, signing the name of Mr. Goodman on the Application for Public Grant Dollars, constituted a civil violation of General Statutes § 9-8. Respondent maintains that she did not have the requisite intent necessary to find a criminal violation of this statute for the aforesaid conduct.

14. The Commission considers these offenses to be serious and an affront to the legal process, which relies on notary publics to authenticate legal documents. Nevertheless, the Commission is constrained in effectuating a more appropriate remedy in this matter by its inability to impose civil penalties for violations of General Statutes § 9-8.
15. Consequently, the Commission intends to refer this matter to the Secretary of the State for consideration of whether Respondent should retain her credentials as a notary public.
16. Respondent admits all jurisdictional facts and agrees that this Agreement and Order shall have the same force and effect as a final decision and Order entered after a full hearing and shall become final when adopted by the Commission. The Respondent shall receive a copy hereof as provided in Section 9-7b-56 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
17. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement will be submitted to the Commission at its next meeting and, if it is not accepted by the Commission, it is withdrawn by the Respondent and may not be used as an admission in any subsequent hearing, if the same becomes necessary.
18. Respondent waives:
 - (a) Any further procedural steps;
 - (b) The requirement that the Commission's decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated; and
 - (c) All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the Order entered into pursuant to this Agreement.
19. Upon Respondent's compliance with the Order hereinafter stated, the Commission shall not initiate any further proceedings against her pertaining to this matter other than to refer the matter to the Secretary of the State, as identified herein.


ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent shall henceforth strictly comply with the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes § 9-8.

The Respondent:


Concetta Coppola
69 Canner Street
New Haven, CT 06511

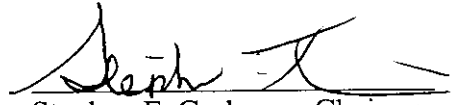
For the State of Connecticut:

BY: 
Joan M. Andrews, Esq.
Director of Legal Affairs & Enforcement
& Authorized Representative of the
State Elections Enforcement Commission
20 Trinity St., Suite 101
Hartford, CT

Dated: 5/22/09

Dated: 5/26/09

Adopted this 27th day of May of 2009 at Hartford, Connecticut


Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman
By Order of the Commission