

**IN THE MATTER OF SOPHIEANN HY**  
**COIB CASE NO. 2006-638**  
**AUGUST 2, 2007**

**SUMMARY:** The Board issued a public warning letter to a teacher at the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) for accepting compensation for baby-sitting from the parents of a student at her school. While not pursuing further enforcement action, the Board took the opportunity of this public warning letter to remind public servants that Chapter 68 of the City Charter prohibits a public servant from having a financial relationship with the parents of students who attend their schools because it creates at least the appearance that the public servant has used his or her position for personal financial gain. *COIB v. Hy*, COIB Case No. 2006-638 (2007).

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CITY OF NEW YORK  
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

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August 2, 2007

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VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Ms. Sophieann Hy  
[REDACTED]

Re: COIB Case No. 2006-638

Dear Ms. Hy:

It has come to the attention of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board that in July and August 2006, while employed by Department of Education ("DOE") as a teacher, you baby-sat on approximately 15 occasions a former student who was at the time a student in your school, for which service you received compensation from your former student's parents. The Board has also been advised that upon being informed by the DOE that your conduct was improper, you ceased baby-sitting the student and that at the Board's request you refunded to the parents the monies that they had paid you.

Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter ("the Charter") prohibits public servants from using their positions to obtain any private or personal advantage. Charter Section 2604(b)(2) states that "[n]o public servant shall engage in any business, transaction or private employment, or have any financial or other private interest, direct or indirect, which is in conflict with the proper discharge of his or her official actions." Charter Section 2604(b)(3) states that "[n]o public servant shall use or attempt to use his or her position as a public servant to obtain any financial gain, contract, license, privilege or other private or personal advantage, direct or indirect, for the public servant or any person or firm associated with the public servant." Having a financial relationship with parents of students who attend your school creates at least the appearance that you used your position for personal financial gain, which is strictly prohibited under the Charter. Thus, you are advised that you may not baby-sit, tutor, or provide any other services for compensation to students from your school or their parents.

While the Conflicts of Interest Board has concluded that no further enforcement action is required in this matter under the particular

circumstances presented here, it is issuing this public warning letter in order to provide guidance to other public servants in similar situations. This letter should be regarded as a formal reminder of the importance of strict compliance with the City's conflicts of interest law, contained in Chapter 68 of the Charter and the Board Rules. Precise compliance with these provisions avoids even the appearance of impropriety and helps to strengthen public confidence in City officials.

In the future, if you have any questions concerning the conflicts of interest law, please contact the Conflicts of Interest Board staff at (212) 442-1400.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Steven B. Rosenfeld  
Chair

I hereby waive any right I may have to confidentiality and agree that the Board may make this document public. I represent that I have entered into this agreement freely, knowingly, and intentionally without coercion or duress and that I have had a full opportunity to consult with counsel of my choice.

/s/

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SOPHIEANNE HY

/s/

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