

2019 Lobbyist Registration Audit of Michael Murphy

FINDING(S)

- 1. Michael Murphy failed to timely register for one employer.**
- 2. Michael Murphy failed to complete the required lobbyist training.**

EMPLOYER(S)

- TN Trial Lawyers Assoc.

REGISTRATION(S)

Michael Murphy registered as a lobbyist for TN Trial Lawyers Assoc. during 2019. Based on the audit documentation, Michael Murphy appears to have late registered lobbying relationship with one employer. Based on the records provided Michael Murphy contracted to provide lobbying services at the commencement of 2019 for his employer. The records indicate a lobbyist relationship existed from 2018, with the new contract extending that relationship. Therefore, Michael Murphy was required to register by January 8, 2019 to be within the seven days required by statute. The lobbyist did not register until January 28, 2019, 20 days late.

LOBBYING AGREEMENT(S)

Based on a review of the audit documentation provided, Michael Murphy was a contracted lobbyist who had a written contracts or letter of understanding with the employer. The terms of the contracts appear to be within the statutes for lobbying activities, including having no terms for contingency payments based on lobbying success.

FAMILY OR BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Michael Murphy reported no existing business or familial relationships with persons who were officials in the legislative branch or officials in the executive branch.

TRAINING

According to the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Michael Murphy did not complete the required lobbyist training for the 2019 registration year. T.C.A. § 3-6-114(b) requires each registered lobbyist to complete an annual training course. When a lobbyist completes the training online, the system records the training on the web-based system. If the lobbyist attends the legislative ethics training, their name is recorded at the training event and then administratively entered into the system records. Based on the review of the system records, Michael Murphy did not complete the training online or by attendance during 2019. The Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records indicate Michael Murphy paid all training fees.