

2022 Lobbyist Registration Audit of Meghan Kissell

FINDING(S)

1. Meghan Kissell failed to register for one employer timely.

EMPLOYER(S)

- Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund

REGISTRATION(S)

Meghan Kissell registered as a lobbyist for one employer in². Based on the audit documentation, Meghan Kissell failed to register for this employer timely.

Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund

Meghan Kissell is an in-house employee with the job title "Regional Advocacy Director." Although part of Meghan Kissell's duties included lobbying in Tennessee, they were not the only duties and not specifically the responsibilities for which the lobbyist was hired. The employer provided documentation to indicate they determined a need to lobby in Tennessee on or about March 23, 2022. Based on this data, the lobbyist and the employer had until March 30, 2022, to register timely. However, Meghan Kissell did not register until July 7, 2022. This is approximately 99 days late. The lobbyist also registered 92 days after the employer registered on April 6, 2023.

Note: The Bureau's records also indicated that the Ethics Operations Officer noted that the lobbyist had failed to register within seven days of the employer and sent a notice to Meghan Kissell concerning the one-sided registration. After several additional notices the matter was brought before the Tennessee Ethics Commission as part of the process done by the Ethics Operations Officer. The lobbyist's failure to timely register was put before the Ethics Commission for possible assessment of civil penalties on September 27, 2022; however, the Commission took no action. It should be noted the days late presented in September may be different than the ninety-nine days noted above. The days above relate to the number of days the registration was late based on the statutory requirements. The days late presented to the Commission, in September 2022 would be based on a request to complete a filing within a specified number of days of notice, and the number of days after that request was made.

Based on a review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Meghan Kissell paid all registration fees.

LOBBYING AGREEMENT(S)

Based on a review of the audit documentation provided, Meghan Kissell was a direct employee of the employer. The employer had no employment contract with the lobbyist employee. However, Meghan Kissell's employer provided a written statement verifying that the terms of employment were within the statutes for lobbying activities, including having no terms for contingency payments based on lobbying success.

FAMILY OR BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Meghan Kissell reported no 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, Meghan Kissell completed all required trainings and paid all training fees timely.