



City of Chicago  
Harold Washington, Mayor

August 31, 1987

Board of Ethics  
Harriet McCullough  
Executive Director

[Redacted]

50 West Washington Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Case Number 87040.A

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear [Redacted]

The Board of Ethics has reviewed your hypothetical employment situation as it relates to Section 26.2-13 of the Ethics Ordinance (Employment of Relatives). In the circumstances you described, a supervisory, administrative or executive employee of the [Redacted] had a relative seeking employment with that same Department. There would be no supervisory or reporting relationship between the two, as the employee and his relative would work in different bureaus of the [Redacted]. The Board has determined that under these circumstances the [Redacted] may hire the relative. However, the Ethics Ordinance will impose certain restrictions on the current employee.

Section 26.2-13(a) of the Ethics Ordinance states that no employee shall employ or advocate for employment, in any City agency in which said employee serves, any person who is a relative of said employee. "Agency" as defined by Section 26.2-1(b) includes "any City department or other administrative unit." Thus, an employee cannot employ a relative, or advocate a relative for employment in either the Bureau or the Department for which he works. However, nothing in the Ethics Ordinance will prohibit a relative of a City employee from obtaining employment with any City Department or other administrative unit of the City, so long as the employee in question does not attempt to influence the employment decision and does not personally exercise his own discretion in determining whether his relative will be employed by the City.



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Please note that in the Ethics Ordinance, a "relative" is defined as a person who is related to an official or employee as spouse or as any of the following, whether by blood or by adoption: parent, child, brother or sister, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, grandparent, grandchild, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepfather or stepmother, stepson or stepdaughter, stepbrother or stepsister, half-brother or half-sister. (See Section 26.2-1(r); attached).

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Board of Ethics at 744-9660.

Sincerely,

  
Sol Brandzel  
Chairman

MA/jh- [redacted]