



# TOWN OF SOUTHBURY

## ETHICS COMMISSION

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### **Advisory Opinion Case No. 25-002a**

Ms. Cathy DeCarli, a newly elected Selectwoman for the Board of Selectman (BOS) here in Southbury has asked the Ethics Commission for an Advisory Opinion concerning a potential conflict of interest that might exist between members of her family's current and ongoing activities as paid teachers of Tae Kwon Do classes for the Southbury Parks and Recreation Department (P&R) and its compatibility with her new role as an elected official on the BOS.

Our advice is that since it is her family members that are acting as instructors for P&R, and not her personally, that it is reasonable that they continue to act in these roles going forward. We do however advise her to consider recusing herself from any votes that might directly affect the existence and funding for this particular program in P&R if that circumstance ever surfaces at a BOS meeting or during town budget discussions.

She is still required to disclose this familial employment arrangement publically as per Section C of the Code of Ethics by informing the BOS in writing of her family members activity in these programs and having it entered into the minutes of a meeting of the BOS to provide public awareness of the relationship.

By  
The Ethics Commission for the Town of Southbury

*Joseph R. Ruggiero*

Joseph R. Ruggiero Chairperson

*1/15/2026*

Date