

Notice Number 2023-173

Rule Number Rko 300

<p>1. Agency Name &amp; Address:</p> <p><b>Office of the Right-to-Know Ombudsman Room 313, State House Annex 25 Capital Street Concord, NH 03301</b></p>	<p>2. RSA Authority: <u>RSA 91-A: 7-d</u></p> <p>3. Federal Authority: <u>NA</u></p> <p>4. Type of Action:</p> <p>Adoption <u>X</u></p> <p>Repeal _____</p> <p>Readoption _____</p> <p>Readoption w/amendment _____</p>
--	---

5. Short Title: **Ethical Standards**

6. (a) Summary of what the rule says and of any proposed amendments:

**These rules adopt ethical standards for the Office of the Right-to-Know Ombudsman, a single-person agency first staffed on January 27, 2023, which is presently set to expire on July 1, 2025. See Laws 2022, Ch. 250: 6,7. The rules are intended to recognize, to more explicitly set forth, and to implement the applicable ethical standards and continuing education requirements imposed upon the Ombudsman by virtue of the fact that this officer must hold the qualifications set forth in RSA 91-A:7-a.**

6. (b) Brief description of the groups affected:

**The Right-to-Know Ombudsman.**

6. (c) Specific section or sections of state statute or federal statute or regulation which the rule is intended to implement:

Rule	Statute
Rko 301.01	RSA 91-A: 7-a, I, II; RSA 21-G; RSA 15-B; RSA 15-A; RSA 91-A:7-b; RSA 541-A: 16, I(a), (b)
Rko 301.02	RSA 91-A: 7-a, III, IV; RSA 541-A: 16, I(a), (b); RSA 541-A:38

7. Contact person for copies and questions including requests to accommodate persons with disabilities:

Name:	<b>Thomas F. Kehr</b>	Title:	<b>Right-to-Know Ombudsman</b>
Address:	<b>Room 313, State House Annex 25 Capital St. Concord, NH 03301</b>	Phone #:	<b>(603) 271- 3277</b>
		Fax#:	<b>(603) 271-6316</b>
		E-mail:	<b>Thomas.kehr@sos.nh.gov</b>

TTY/TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964  
or dial 711 (in NH)

8. Deadline for submission of materials in writing or, if practicable for the agency, in the electronic format specified: **Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 4:30 PM**

Fax

E-mail

Other format (specify):

9. Public hearing scheduled for:

Date and Time: **Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 1:00 PM**

Place: **Room 405, State House Annex  
25 Capital St.  
Concord, NH 03301**

10. Fiscal Impact Statement (Prepared by Legislative Budget Assistant):

FIS # 23: 179 , dated 08/02/2023

**1. Comparison of the costs of the proposed rule(s) to the existing rule(s):**

Not applicable as these are new rules.

**2. Cite the Federal mandate. Identify the impact on state funds:**

No federal mandate, no impact on state funds.

**3. Cost and benefits of the proposed rule(s):**

**A. To State general or State special funds:**

None

**B. To State citizens and political subdivisions:**

None

**C. To independently owned businesses:**

None

11. Statement Relative to Part I, Article 28-a of the N.H. Constitution:

**These proposed rules do not mandate or assign any new, expanded, or modified programs or responsibilities to any political subdivisions in such a way as to necessitate additional local expenditures by political subdivisions.**