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Andrew Cuomo Ordered to Pay Back Profits from Book Deal

Andrew Cuomo, former governor of New York, is ordered to return what he earned from his [book](#) to the state attorney's general office. He made about 5.1 million dollars since the release on October 13, 2020. The Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) [decided on a vote](#) of 12-1. However, this battle might lead to more complications. Cuomo already donated his earnings to the United Way of New York City charity, supporting essential workers against Covid-19. He also distributed it into his daughters trust fund.

According to the Washington Post, "His counsel told the commission Cuomo [agreed](#) to not use any state personnel or resources to produce his book and that he would write it 'entirely on his own time.'" Cuomo used his government staff even though he knew they were not allowed to work on his personal projects. Cuomo [acknowledged](#) this by, "Some people volunteered to review the book." Their contribution included help with his writing, editing, and publication. His book became a [New York's best seller](#), recounting the early events of the pandemic. He became more popular due to his daily Covid briefings, applauded for handling the outbreak.

Although Cuomo broke this agreement by having his staff work on his book, he was still [given another chance](#) to reapply for publication approval by the JCOPE, which he declined. Cuomo's lawyer, Jim McGuire, [expressed](#) that Mr. Cuomo should not repay what he has profited because he believes he did not abuse the state's help in any way. McGuire stated that a hearing should be held for Cuomo to make his case. However,

this can be challenging for both parties, the former governor's staff and Cuomo. One, for the governmental staff who aided help in the first place and Cuomo for disregarding the agreement afterwards.

Dutchess County Republican senator Sue Serino [stated](#), "Every penny that the disgraced former governor profited off of New Yorkers' pain should be directed to the victims of his dangerous pandemic policies, like the many families who lost loved ones in New York's nursing homes."

Allegations arose against Mr. Cuomo and his office for covering up deaths in nursing homes. He had to move Covid patients to [nursing homes](#) because of not enough space in hospitals. It was his attempt to free up space despite the high chance of affecting nursing home residents during the peak of death tolls. Cuomo is being [investigated](#) for falsely calculating the deaths of nursing home residents as a result to Covid-19. It was argued that the misinterpretation of data was to protect Cuomo's image by minimizing the Covid issue in the nursing homes.

Closely following this investigation, he was also [accused](#) of sexual harrassment. Multiple women have come forward reporting their stories of his inappropriate behavior against them. Attorney general, Letitia James, is investigating this case as Cuomo has resigned in August 2021. His court appearance is set sometime in January 2022 after it being pushed from November 17.