

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
EXECUTIVE ETHICS BOARD

In the Matter of:

DALE LLANTO

Respondent.

No. 11-029

STIPULATED FACTS,
CONCLUSIONS AND ORDER

I. STIPULATION

THIS STIPULATION is entered into under WAC 292-100-090(1) between the Respondent, DALE LLANTO, and Board Staff of the WASHINGTON STATE EXECUTIVE ETHICS BOARD (Board) through MELANIE DeLEON, Executive Director. The following stipulated facts, conclusions, and agreed order will be binding upon the parties if fully executed, and if accepted by the Board without modification(s), and will not be binding if rejected by the Board, or if the Respondent does not accept the Board's proposed modification(s), if any, to the stipulation.

Section 1: PROCEDURAL FACTS

1.1. On October 20, 2011, the Executive Ethics Board (Board) received a complaint alleging that Dale Llanto, Correctional Records Technician, Department of Corrections (DOC) may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal gain.

1.2. The Board is authorized under RCW 34.05.060 to establish procedures for attempting and executing informal settlement of matters in lieu of more formal proceedings under the Administrative Procedures Act, including adjudicative hearings. The Board has established such procedures under WAC 292-100-090.

1.3. Dale Llanto understands that if Board staff proves any or all of the alleged violations at a hearing, the Board may impose sanctions, including a civil penalty under RCW 42.52.480(1)(b) of up to \$5,000, or the greater of three times the economic value of anything received or sought in violation of chapter 42.52 RCW, for each violation found. The Board may also order the payment of costs, including reasonable investigative costs, under RCW 42.52.480(1)(c).

1.4. Dale Llanto recognizes that the evidence available to the Board staff is such that the Board may conclude he violated the Ethics in Public Service Act. Therefore, in the interest of seeking an informal and expeditious resolution of this matter, the parties agree to entry of the stipulated findings of fact, conclusions of law and agreed order set forth below.

1.5. Dale Llanto waives the opportunity for a hearing, contingent upon acceptance of this stipulation by the Board, or her acceptance of any modification(s) proposed by the Board, pursuant to the provisions of WAC 292-100-090(2) which provides in part:

The board has the option of accepting, rejecting, or modifying the proposed stipulation or asking for additional facts to be presented. If the board accepts the stipulation or modifies the stipulation with the agreement of the respondent, the board shall enter an order in conformity with the terms of the stipulation. If the board rejects the stipulation or the respondent does not agree to the board's proposed modifications to the stipulation, the normal process will continue. The proposed stipulation and information obtained during formal settlement discussions shall not be admitted into evidence at a subsequent public hearing.

1.6. If the Board accepts this stipulation, the Board will release and discharge Dale Llanto from all further ethics proceedings under chapter 42.52 RCW for matters arising out of the facts contained in the complaint in this matter, subject to payment of the full amount of the civil penalty due and owing, any other costs imposed, and compliance with all other terms and conditions of the agreed order. Dale Llanto in turn agrees to release and discharge the Board, its officers, agents and employees from all claims, damages, and causes of action arising out of this complaint and this stipulation and agreed order.

1.7. If this Stipulation is accepted, this Stipulation and Order does not purport to settle any other claims between Dale Llanto and the Washington State Executive Ethics Board, the State of Washington, or other third party, which may be filed in the future.

1.8. If this Stipulation is accepted, this Stipulation and Order is enforceable under RCW 34.05.578 and any other applicable statutes or rules.

1.9. If the Board rejects this stipulation, or if Dale Llanto does not accept the Board's proposed modification(s), if any, this matter will be scheduled for an administrative hearing in front of the Board and Dale Llanto waives any objection to participation by any Board member at any subsequent hearing to whom this stipulation was presented for approval under WAC 292-100-090(2). Further, Dale Llanto understands and agrees that this proposed stipulation and information obtained during any formal settlement discussions held between the parties shall not be admitted into evidence at a subsequent public hearing, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

Section 2: FINDINGS OF FACT

2.1. Mr. Llanto was a Correctional Records Technician for the Department of Corrections (DOC) for all times pertinent to this investigation.

2.2. On December 17, 2007, Mr. Llanto signed the New Employee Acknowledgement form acknowledging the receipt of the following DOC Policies and that he understood it was his responsibility to be continually familiar with local institution policies, procedures and field instructions:

- DOC Policy 280.100 – Acceptable Use of Technology.
- DOC Policy 800.010 – Ethics.

2.3. Mr. Llanto attended information technology training on numerous occasions with the most recent training occurring on September 21, 2010. This training outlined the acceptable use of the internet.

2.4. Mr. Llanto attended ethics training on January 28, 2008.

2.5. On June 10, 2011, DOC conducted an analysis of Mr. Llanto's computer hard drive. The analysis revealed that between May 7, 2011 and June 7, 2011, Mr. Llanto spent over 36 hours viewing unauthorized non-work related websites and emails. Examples included:

- Foxnews.com – 2 hours 14 minutes and 37 seconds.
- Doubleclick.net – 1 hour 12 minutes and 43 seconds.
- Chartbeat.net – 4 hours 14 minutes and 13 seconds
- Craigslist.org – 5 hours 21 minutes and 1 second.

The 36 hours Mr. Llanto spent over the 21-day work period equates to almost 2 hours per day devoted to personal use.

2.6. During this same time, Mr. Llanto spent additional work time sending personal emails and reading school information. Mr. Llanto forwarded his entire education email account from Interface.edu to his work email address, along with emails for other personal business.

Section 3: CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

3.1. Pursuant to chapter 42.52 RCW, the Executive Ethics Board has jurisdiction over Dale Llanto and over the subject matter of this complaint.

3.2. Pursuant to WAC 292-100-090(1), the parties have the authority to resolve this matter under the terms contained herein, subject to Board approval.

3.3. The Ethics in Public Service Act, Chapter 42.52 RCW, prohibits state employees from using state resources for their benefit. RCW 42.52.160(1) states:

No state officer or state employee may employ or use any person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official control or direction, or in his or her official custody, for the private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.

3.4. Based on Findings of Fact 2.1 through 2.6, Dale Llanto used state resources in violation of RCW 42.52.160 and WAC 292-110-010.

3.5. The Board is authorized to impose sanctions for violations to the Ethics Act pursuant to RCW 42.52.360. The Board has set forth criteria in WAC 292-120-030 for imposing sanctions and consideration of any mitigating or aggravating factors.

Section 4: AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS


In determining the appropriateness of the civil penalty, the Board reviewed the criteria in WAC 292-120-030. Mitigating factors include that DOC terminated Dale Llanto's employment on August 23, 2011.

Section 5: AGREED ORDER

Dale Llanto will pay a civil penalty in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). Payment is due in full 45 days after this stipulation is accepted by the Board, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties.


II. CERTIFICATION

I, Dale Llanto, hereby certify that I have read this Stipulation and Agreed Order in its entirety; that my counsel of record, if any, has fully explained the legal significance and consequence of it; that I fully understand and agree to all of it; and that it may be presented to the Board without my appearance. I knowingly and voluntarily waive my right to a hearing in this matter; and if the Board accepts the Stipulation and Agreed Order, I understand that I will receive a signed copy.

 12/9/11

DALE LLANTO Date
Respondent

Stipulated to and presented by:



Melanie deLeon Date
Executive Director

