

# State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

RICHARD EMERY 1408 GOAT TRAIL ROAD MUKILTEO, WA 98275

Also delivered electronically to "REMERY@MUKILTEOWA.GOV"

August 16, 2018

Subject: F-1 Brief Enforcement Hearing Notice PDC Case Number 38823

Dear: RICHARD EMERY

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has not received your Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) disclosing financial activities for calendar year 2017. RCW 42.17A.700 requires every elected or appointed official to file an annual F-1 report, which was to have been filed no later than April 16, 2018. On July 16, 2018, PDC staff sent you a warning letter reminding you to file the missing F-1 report.

In accordance with RCW 42.17A.110 and RCW 42.17A.755, a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) has been scheduled to determine if you violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file the required annual F-1 report for calendar year 2017. Under the Brief Enforcement Hearing rules, the Presiding Officer has the authority to assess civil penalties in accordance with WAC 390-37-143, a penalty schedule adopted by the Commission (see enclosed copy).

#### HEARING INFORMATION

Date and time: September 24, 2018 at 10 a.m.
Place: Evergreen Plaza Building, Room 206

711 Capitol Way, Olympia, WA, 98504-0908

Presiding Officer: Anne Levinson, Chair, Public Disclosure Commission

#### TO AVOID THE HEARING

In order to avoid the Brief Enforcement Hearing, please ensure that the following items are received by the PDC no later than 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 19, 2018:

- 1. A completed and signed F-1 or F-1A Report (a blank F-1/F-1A form is enclosed).
- 2. A signed Statement of Understanding (blank copy enclosed); and
- 3. A check or money order for \$100, made payable to Washington State Treasurer and mail all three items to the following address:

WA State Treasurer - Public Disclosure Commission Financial Office PO Box 41465 Olympia, WA 98504-1465

If there are circumstances you wish to have considered at the Brief Enforcement Hearing, you may attend the hearing in person, or participate by telephone. For your information, most Respondents who participate at the Brief Enforcement hearings participate by telephone or in writing.

If you cannot participate at the Brief Enforcement Hearing, you may provide a written response describing the facts of your case and any circumstances or mitigating factors you would like the Presiding Officer to consider. Please submit your written response by 12:00 p.m. Friday, September 21, 2018.

If you plan on participating at the Brief Enforcement hearing or have questions about the hearing process, please contact PDC Staff by email at <a href="mailto:pdc.wa.gov">pdc.wa.gov</a> – and be sure to reference your case number in the subject line of the email.

Sincerely,

PDC Staff Compliance and Enforcement Division

#### **Enclosures:**

- Statement of Understanding
- F-1 Penalty Schedule
- Blank F-1/F-1A form
- Brief Enforcement Hearings FAQ



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	*CANDIDATES: Do not use public agency addresses or telephone numbers for contact information.			s for	Email:(Home) Optional					Optional

# Public Disclosure Commission Statement of Understanding 2018 Annual Officials Enforcement Re: F-1 Report

I hereby acknowledge that I,,
(Printed Name of Respondent)
did not timely file the required Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 Report) with the Public Disclosure
Commission (PDC) that was due to be filed on April 16, 2018, disclosing personal financial information for
calendar year 2017, thereby violating 42.17A.700.
I want to avoid the time and expense resulting from a Brief Adjudicative Hearing (Brief Enforcement Hearing)
before the Presiding Officer. Therefore, I am filing the F-1 report, completing the Statement of Understanding,
and enclosing a check or money order in the amount of \$100 for the missing report, in lieu of a September 24,
2018, Brief Enforcement hearing being held.
I understand that this will resolve all issues with the PDC regarding my failure to timely file the F-1 report,
provided that a check or money order for \$100, the completed missing report(s), and this signed Statement of
Understanding are all received by Wednesday, September 19, 2018.
I further understand that Commission staff will not be scheduling a Brief Enforcement hearing before the
Presiding Officer regarding my obligation to timely file the F-1 report that was due April 16, 2018.
<del></del>
Signature of Respondent/Candidate Date Signed
Be sure to include your F-1 report, and make your check or money order payable to "Washington State
<u>Treasurer."</u> Mail or deliver this Statement of Understanding, your completed F-1 report, and your payment to
the following address:

**WA State Treasurer - Public Disclosure Commission** 

Financial Office PO Box 41465

Olympia, WA 98504-1465

#### **BRIEF ENFORCEMENT HEARINGS**

You have received a letter scheduling a brief enforcement hearing before the Public Disclosure Commission. You are referred to as the Respondent in this matter. Here are the answers to some Frequently Asked Questions about brief hearings. They are informational only and should not be considered legal advice.

#### What is a brief enforcement hearing?

The PDC may schedule a brief enforcement hearing (also known as a "brief adjudicative proceeding" under the Administrative Procedure Act) when evidence shows the following types of alleged violations may have occurred:

- Failure to file or timely file required reports of financial affairs, campaign contributions and/or expenditures, independent expenditures or funds spent on lobbying;
- Improper use of public facilities or resources in election campaigns when the value of public funds expended or facilities used was minimal; and
- Infractions of political advertising laws regarding sponsor identification or political party identification.

Brief hearings may be scheduled on other matters as well, if the basic facts are agreed to or not being contested, and it is anticipated that the likely penalty imposed (if a violation of law or rule is found) will be \$1,000 or less. The Commission has adopted a penalty schedule for Brief Enforcement Hearings which can be found in WAC 390-37-143.

A Presiding Officer, who is the Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission or another commissioner, will conduct the hearing. PDC staff will present the case to the Presiding Officer, and you will have an opportunity to explain the circumstances related to the alleged violations. You may do this in person, by telephone, or in writing by email or letter.

#### What can I do to avoid the hearing?

If you received a hearing notice that included information about how to avoid a hearing, you may do so by filing the missing report(s), paying the stated penalty, and completing a Statement of Understanding stipulating to a violation. If you would like to stipulate and have guestions, please contact PDC Compliance and Enforcement staff.

#### What do I do to prepare for the hearing?

The brief hearings are informal in nature, and you are not required to have an attorney for this hearing. Most people represent themselves, but that is your decision.

*In-person participation.* If you are attending in-person, bring all of the written information that you want the Presiding Officer to consider in making a decision. You will need to bring three copies of each — one for you, one for PDC staff, and one for the Presiding Officer. Alternatively, you may submit one copy to PDC staff so long as it is received five business days before the day of the hearing.

If you are having other people (witnesses) testify on your behalf, they must be available at the hearing, and staff needs to be informed of the number of witnesses and time needed. The scheduled hearing starting time is an estimate, as there is frequently more than one hearing scheduled for that day, and you will need to remain available to participate until your case is called.

**Telephone participation.** If you wish to participate by phone, please let PDC staff know five business days in advance the number where you can be reached and the timeframe you are available. You must be available at the designated time and telephone number. Be aware the hearing time is an estimate, and you must be available until your case is called.

**Participation in writing**. If you are participating in writing only, make sure any written materials you want the Presiding Officer to consider are delivered to the PDC office no later than five business days before the hearing.

If you have submitted nothing in writing prior to the hearing, have made no other arrangements, and you do not appear in person or through your legal counsel at the hearing, it will be presumed that you have decided to waive your right to participate at the hearing.

#### What happens at the hearing?

The Presiding Officer will introduce the participants and explain the procedure for the hearing. Hearings typically follow a set format and time limits, but the process is informal enough that non-lawyers can effectively present their cases and respondents can represent themselves.

PDC staff will first present information regarding the alleged violation of law or rule. You will then have an opportunity to present information relevant to your case. All testimony is given under oath. The Presiding Officer may ask you some questions about the information you or PDC staff have presented. If you have decided to participate in writing instead of in person or by phone, your written information will be considered by the Presiding Officer as part of the hearing materials.

If at any time the Presiding Officer believes the alleged violations are serious enough to merit penalties greater than \$1,000, the Presiding Officer will adjourn the hearing and direct the matter be scheduled for a hearing before the full Commission at a later time.

#### How is the decision made?

After considering all the information presented at the hearing, the Presiding Officer will make a decision about the allegations and any appropriate penalty amount. The decision is typically announced orally at the hearing. A written decision, called an initial order, will be sent to you within 10 business days.

In some cases, the Presiding Officer may use a penalty schedule referred to above that has been adopted by the Commission in rule to determine the appropriate penalty for certain types of violations.

#### What happens after my hearing?

You will receive a written initial order, along with a cover letter explaining the Presiding Officer's findings, within 10 business days. If a monetary penalty is imposed in this initial order, the penalty must be paid to the **Washington**State Treasurer, and mailed to the address listed in the order cover letter within the time frame stated in the order.

Along with your initial order, you will also receive information about your appeal rights, including how to request review or reconsideration by the full Commission if you disagree with the order. Follow these procedures carefully if you wish to appeal. If there is no appeal before the PDC, the initial order becomes a final order, and further appeals must be made in Superior Court.

#### What are the rules that apply to the procedures of my hearing?

The PDC's laws and rules are available on the PDC's website at <a href="www.pdc.wa.gov">www.pdc.wa.gov</a>. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 42.17A. The rules are in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 390. Brief adjudicative proceedings are described at WAC 390-37-140 through 390-37-150 and in the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) at RCW 34.05.482-494

## WAC 390-37-143

## Brief enforcement hearings (adjudicative proceeding)—Penalty schedule.

The presiding officer may assess a penalty up to one thousand dollars upon finding a violation of chapter **42.17A** RCW or Title 390 WAC.

### (1) Base penalty amounts:

Violation	1st Occasion	2nd Occasion	3rd Occasion
Failure to timely file an accurate and complete statement of financial a	ffairs (F-1):		
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150	\$150 - \$300	\$300 - \$600
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250	\$500	\$1,000
Candidate's failure to timely file an accurate and complete registration affairs (F-1):	statement	(C-1)/state	ment of financial
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150 per report	\$150 - \$300 per report	\$300 - \$600 per report up to \$1,000
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150 per report	\$300 per report	\$600 per report up to \$1,000
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250 per report	\$500 per report	consideration by full commission

.... (emphasis added)

"Occasion" means established violation. Only violations in the last five years will be considered for the purpose of determining second and third occasions.

- (2) In determining the appropriate penalty, the presiding officer may consider the nature of the violation and aggravating and mitigating factors, including:
  - (a) Whether the respondent is a first-time filer;
- (b) The respondent's compliance history for the last five years, including whether the noncompliance was isolated or limited in nature, indicative of systematic or ongoing problems, or part of a pattern of violations by the respondent, or in the case of a political committee or other entity, part of a pattern of violations by the respondent's officers, staff, principal decision makers, consultants, or sponsoring organization;
  - (c) The respondent's unpaid penalties from a previous enforcement action;
- (d) The impact on the public, including whether the noncompliance deprived the public of timely or accurate information during a time-sensitive period, or otherwise had a significant or material impact on the public;
- (e) The amount of financial activity by the respondent during the statement period or election cycle;
- (f) Whether the late or unreported activity was significant in amount or duration under the circumstances, including in proportion to the total amount of expenditures by the respondent in the campaign or statement period;
- (g) Corrective action or other remedial measures initiated by respondent prior to enforcement action, or promptly taken when noncompliance brought to respondent's attention;
- (h) Good faith efforts to comply, including consultation with commission staff prior to initiation of enforcement action and cooperation with commission staff during enforcement action, and a demonstrated wish to acknowledge and take responsibility for the violation;
- (i) Personal emergency or illness of the respondent or member of his or her immediate family;
  - (j) Other emergencies such as fire, flood, or utility failure preventing filing;
- (k) Sophistication of respondent or the financing, staffing, or size of the respondent's campaign or organization;
- (I) Commission staff, third-party vendor, or equipment error, including technical problems at the agency preventing or delaying electronic filing.
- (3) The presiding officer has authority to suspend all or a portion of an assessed penalty under the conditions to be determined by that officer including, but not limited to, payment of the nonsuspended portion of the penalty within five business days of the date of the entry of the order in that case.
- (4) If, on the third occasion, a respondent has outstanding penalties or judgments, the matter will be directed to the full commission for consideration.

- (5) The presiding officer may direct a matter to the full commission if the officer believes one thousand dollars would be an insufficient penalty or the matter warrants consideration by the full commission. Cases will automatically be scheduled before the full commission for an enforcement action when the respondent:
  - (a) Was found in violation during a previous reporting period;
  - (b) The violation remains in effect following any appeals; and
- (c) The person has not filed the disclosure forms that were the subject of the prior violation at the time the current hearing notice is being sent.

[Statutory Authority: RCW <u>42.17A.110</u>(1) and <u>42.17A.570</u>. WSR 18-10-088, § 390-37-143, filed 5/1/18, effective 6/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW <u>42.17A.110</u>. WSR 17-03-004, § 390-37-143, filed 1/4/17, effective 2/4/17.]