

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
EXECUTIVE ETHICS BOARD

In the Matter of:

Cory King

Respondent.

No. 2025-030

STIPULATED FACTS,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND
AGREED ORDER

THIS STIPULATION is entered into by Respondent, Cory King and Board Staff of the WASHINGTON STATE EXECUTIVE ETHICS BOARD (Board) through KATE REYNOLDS, Executive Director, pursuant to chapter 42.52 RCW, chapter 34.05 RCW, and WAC 292-100-090(1). The following stipulated facts, conclusions of law, 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. This stipulation is based on the following:

A. STIPULATED FACTS

1. On April 14, 2025, the Executive Ethics Board (Board) staff initiated a complaint based on evidence that Cory King, a former employee of Green Hill School with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for non-work related activities.

2. While reviewing an unrelated DCYF computer case, Board staff located evidence of pornographic websites being visited by an unknown DCYF employee. It should be noted that Magnet Axiom, the forensic software utilized by Board staff categorizes certain material, e.g.

pornographic websites, dating websites, human trafficking websites, into their own category which is intended to stand out from all other use.

3. While reviewing the unrelated case, Board staff noted that the username associated was not the username of the DCYF employee being investigated at the time.¹ Board staff contacted DCYF IT and provided the username associated with the use, KingCoc. According to DCYF, that username belonged to DCYF employee Cory King.

4. According to DCYF, Cory King was hired by DCYF on August 1, 2022, as a Juvenile Rehabilitation Security Officer 1. On January 1, 2023, Cory King was promoted to a Juvenile Rehabilitation Resident Counselor. On July 1, 2023, Cory King was promoted to a Juvenile Rehabilitation Counselor 2. On February 1, 2024, Cory King was promoted to a Juvenile Rehabilitation Specialist. On April 16, 2025, Cory King resigned from state service.

5. As part of this investigation, Board staff obtained a copy of two other DCYF computers that Cory King had accessed during the course of their duties. Board staff was able to successfully process one of the two computers; however, the second computer image provided appeared to have been corrupted as Magnet Axiom was unable to process the contents. When Board staff requested an updated image from DCYF IT, they advised that computer had since been reimaged.

6. Upon review of the computer contents available, Board staff located the following personal use by Cory King between the dates of June 30, 2023 and April 8, 2025:

- **Login credentials saved for several websites, including: Uber, OkCupid (dating site), PayPal, Djcitty, Hulu, Guitarcenter, Nike, Doordash, Bodybuilding, Loyalfans, Walgreens**

¹ It should be noted the computer being reviewed was a “shared” computer, meaning it was used by several DCYF staff at the juvenile detention facility.

- **Pornographic Websites viewed:**
 - Pornhub (3)²
 - Xhamster (5)
 - Xvideos (1)
 - Spankbang (3)
 - Manyvids (7)
 - OnlyFans (74)
 - Adultfyi.com (1)

- **Other Personal Websites viewed:**
 - Google/Gmail – ongoing and frequent logins to personal account
 - Groovefunkel (1)
 - Intuit Tax (5)
 - Milestonecard (credit card site) (12)
 - T-Mobile (4)
 - Piratebay.org (torrent downloads) (9)
 - Capitolcityhonda (1)
 - Cubatravelservices (1)
 - Myfortiva.com (financial website) (12)
 - Creditonebank (36)
 - Boogiedownedits (1)
 - Callcheckmate (financial website) (18)
 - Discovercard.com (1)
 - Craigslist (2)
 - Chase.com (37)
 - Amazon (21)
 - Amtrak (3)
 - YouTube (65)
 - USAToday.com (1)
 - Tripadvisor.com (1)
 - ThurstonTalk.com (1)
 - Thenewstribune.com (1)
 - Theatlantic.com (3)
 - Thekitchn.com (1)
 - Publicsafetytesting.com (2)
 - Telegraph.co.uk/news (1)
 - NFL.com (10)
 - Instacart.com (1)
 - Fox13seattle (1)
 - Facebook (2)
 - Dominos (1)
 - Chronline.com (11)
 - Carneysandoe.com (1)
 - Bkst.com (2)
 - Akc.org (1)
 - Aameats.net (1)
 - Tituswillcars.com (1)
 - Eatlocalfirst.org (1)
 - Ditchthelabel.org (1)
 - Crawfordnautical.org (1)

² Signifies the number of visits to the particular website during the above noted time frame.

7. DCYF investigators interviewed Cory King, at which time Cory King initially denied accessing the above noted websites. When confronted with evidence, Cory King admitted to accessing the pornographic websites, but claimed they had only accessed them from their personal cell phone.³ Cory King ultimately resigned from state service and failed to participate in any further investigation after their initial interview.

B. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Ethics in Public Service Act, Chapter 42.52 RCW, prohibits state employees from Use of persons, money or property for private gain. RCW 42.52.160 states:

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

WAC 292-110-010 Use of state resources, states, in part:

.....
(3) Permitted personal use of state resources. This subsection applies to any use of state resources not included in subsection (2) of this section.

(a) A state officer or employee's use of state resources is de minimis only if each of the following conditions are met:

- (i) There is little or no cost to the state;
- (ii) Any use is brief;
- (iii) Any use occurs infrequently;
- (iv) The use does not interfere with the performance of any state officer's or employee's official duties;
- (v) The use does not compromise the security or integrity of state property, information systems, or software;
- (vi) The use is not for the purpose of conducting an outside business, in furtherance of private employment, or to realize a private financial gain; and
- (vii) The use is not for supporting, promoting the interests of, or soliciting for an outside organization or group.

³ Per DCYF, cell phones are not allowed in the secure areas of the juvenile facility where Cory King was assigned.

2. 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.

C. AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS

In determining the appropriateness of the civil penalty, the Board reviewed the criteria in WAC 292-120-030. In the matter at hand, it is an aggravating factor these types of violations significantly reduce the public respect and confidence in state government employees. In the matter at hand, there are no mitigating factors.

D. STIPULATION AND AGREED ORDER

1. Pursuant to chapter 42.52 RCW, the Executive Ethics Board has jurisdiction over Cory King and over the subject matter of this complaint.

2. Under RCW 34.05.060, the Board can 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.

3. 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.

4. Cory King agrees that if any or all of the alleged violations were proven 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).

5. Cory King further agrees that the evidence available to the Board is such that the Board may conclude they 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.

6. Cory King waives the opportunity for a hearing, contingent upon acceptance of this stipulation by the Board, or their acceptance of any modification(s) proposed by the Board, pursuant to the provisions of WAC 292-100-090(2).

7. If the Board accepts this stipulation, the Board agrees to release and discharge from all further ethics proceedings under chapter 42.52 RCW for any allegations arising out of the facts 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 stipulation. Cory King 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.

8. If the Board accepts this stipulation, it does not purport to settle any other claims between Cory King and the Washington State Executive Ethics Board, the State of Washington, or other third party, which may be filed in the future. No other claims of alleged violations are pending against Cory King at this time.

9. If the Board accepts this stipulation, it is enforceable under RCW 34.05.578 and any other applicable statutes or rules.

10. If the Board rejects this stipulation, or if Cory King does not accept the Board's proposed modification(s), if any, this matter will be scheduled for an administrative hearing before the Board. If an administrative hearing is scheduled before the Board, Cory King waives any objection to participation by any Board member at the hearing to whom this stipulation was

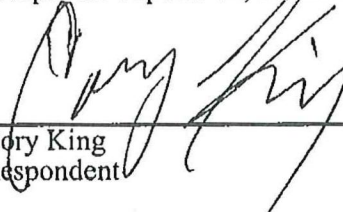
presented for approval under WAC 292-100-090(2). Further, Cory King understands and agrees that this stipulation as well as information obtained during any settlement discussions between the parties shall not be admitted into evidence during the administrative hearing, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.


11. Cory King agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) associated with violations of RCW 42.52.

12. The civil penalty in the amount of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) is payable in full to the Washington State Executive Ethics Board within forty-five (45) days after this stipulation is signed and accepted by the Board, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties.

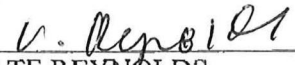
I. CERTIFICATION

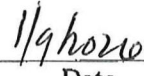
I, Cory King, hereby certify that I have read this stipulation in its entirety, that my counsel of record, if any, has fully explained the legal significance and consequence of it. I further certify that I fully understand and agree to all of it, and that it may be presented to the Board without my appearance.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


Cory King
Respondent


Date

Presented by:


KATE REYNOLDS
Executive Director


Date

