



**State of Washington**  
**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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**Memorandum**

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabatha Blacksmith, Compliance Coordinator

Date: October 28, 2021

Subject: Gary Hedger; PDC Case 94045; Reconsideration Hearing

**Matter for Reconsideration:**

During a Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, Gary Hedger was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) no later than April 15, 2021. At the July 15, 2021 Brief Enforcement Hearing, an Order imposing a \$250 penalty, with \$150 suspended, was entered, which Gary Hedger now requests the Commission reconsider.

**Background:**

- Gary Hedger (the “Respondent”) served as School Director for Hood Canal SD 404 during 2020. He resigned his position effective May 29, 2020.
- The Respondent has no prior violations with the PDC.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official who held office in 2020 was required to file an F-1 report, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2020, no later than April 15, 2021.
- In March and April of 2021, PDC staff sent email reminders to all elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020.
- On May 11, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a warning notice regarding the missing F-1 report for calendar year 2020. The notice was sent to the Respondent’s email address-of-record.

- On June 29, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on July 15, 2021. The hearing notice was sent to the Respondent's email addresses-of-record, which included a personal email and his official school district email.
- At the Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to file the F-1 report no later than April 15, 2021, and was assessed a \$250 penalty, consistent with WAC 390-37-143, the Brief Enforcement Hearing penalty schedule adopted by the Commission. The Presiding Officer suspended \$150 of the \$250 penalty conditioned upon the Respondent filing the missing F-1 report and paying the non-suspended \$100 penalty within 30 days of the Initial Order being entered.
- On August 17, 2021, PDC staff served the August 12, 2021 Initial Order memorializing the Commission's ruling, by email, to the Respondent's email addresses-of-record, which included a personal email and his official school district email.
- On September 20, 2021, the Respondent's spouse, Terrie Hedger, contacted PDC staff by telephone and indicated he had just been released from the hospital and she is assisting him with his filing obligation. Terrie stated that Gary did not receive the hearing notice or Initial Order because he's been locked out of his personal email since February and did not have access to his official email address after he resigned his position with the school board.
- As of October 20, 2021, the Respondent has not filed the F-1 report covering calendar year 2020 activity. The Respondent experienced technical difficulties filing the report and PDC staff have provided him with instructions regarding how to obtain assistance.

**Request for Reconsideration:**

- On October 15, 2021, the Respondent submitted written materials to PDC staff appealing the August 12, 2021 Order based upon the facts that he 1) did not receive the Hearing notice; 2) did not realize the F-1 report was required after he resigned office; and 3) had serious health issues & hospitalization that frustrated compliance.
- On October 18, 2021, PDC staff served the Respondent, by email, with a hearing notice for an October 28, 2021 Reconsideration Hearing before the Public Disclosure Commission, along with instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely. This notice was sent to two personal email addresses obtained from the Respondent and his spouse.