

# Legislative Ethics Board

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COMPLAINT 2022-10  
*In re Jesse Young*  
January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## BOARD COUNSEL'S ORDER OF DISMISSAL

### I. NATURE OF COMPLAINT

The complaint alleges that Respondent violated RCW 42.52.070 by indicating that he would make certain CPS allegations against Complainant disappear if she would agree to his political demands.

### II. JURISDICTION

The Board has both personal and subject matter jurisdiction. RCW 42.52.320.

### III. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The complaint was received by Board counsel on May 11, 2022.

### IV. FINDINGS OF FACT

There is reasonable cause to believe the following are the pertinent facts of the case.

1. Respondent was a member of the House of Representatives representing the 26<sup>th</sup> legislative district at the time the action complained of occurred. As of January 9, 2023, he is no longer a member of the legislature.
2. Board counsel interviewed Complainant on June 17, 2022. During that interview, Board counsel explained that Complainant would need to sign a release of information before Board counsel could speak with representatives of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) about Respondent's alleged actions. The information maintained by DCYF is strictly confidential and cannot be released without a valid release of information.
3. On June 22, 2022, Board counsel sent Complainant a release of information and asked her to sign it and return it in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.
4. On July 18, 2022, Board counsel sent Complainant an email indicating that she had not received the release of information and asking Complainant whether she had received it and planned to return it.

5. On July 18, 2022, Complainant responded to Board counsel by email that she did plan to return the release of information.
6. Two months later, on September 19, 2022, Board counsel again emailed Complainant asking whether she planned to return the release of information. Complainant responded that her family had experienced some unforeseen circumstances which is why she had not responded. She also expressed concern about the public disclosure of any CPS records released.
7. Board counsel responded and explained the very limited need for which the records would be needed to which Complainant indicated that she would sign it but needed a new form. Board counsel emailed her the link on the DCYF website to the form.
8. On November 7, 2022, Board counsel again emailed Complainant asking whether she wished to continue to pursue the complaint. Complainant responded that she wished to continue pursuing the complaint and would send the release of information to Board counsel.
9. As of the date of this opinion, Complainant has not sent the release of information nor has Board counsel had any further contact with her.

V. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to RCW 42.52.425 and Board Rule D. (1) Board counsel has the authority to administratively dismiss this complaint.
2. In this complaint, the ability of Board counsel to fully investigate the allegations is dependent upon the Complainant providing a signed release of information. Complainant did not provide the release over an 8-month period despite repeated attempts by Board counsel to obtain the release.
3. Under Board Rule D.(1)(b) Board counsel dismisses this complaint as being unfounded because the Complainant did not provide the information requested by Board counsel that was necessary to complete the investigation.

VI. ORDER

It is hereby ordered that this complaint is dismissed, without prejudice, as being unfounded.

  
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Jennifer A. Strus  
Board Counsel

  
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Date