

COOK COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

69 West Washington Street, Suite 3040
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Randy PETERSEN, Complainant)

v.)

HERITAGE MEDIA CORPORATION,)
Respondent)

Case No. 2000E054

Entered: July 11, 2014

ORDER

On October 17, 2000 Complainant Randy Petersen ("Petersen") filed a complaint against her former employer, Heritage Media Corporation ("Heritage"), alleging that she was terminated in retaliation for complaining about sexual harassment and sex discrimination.

After conducting an investigation of Petersen's complaint, the Cook County Commission on Human Rights ("Commission") entered an order on July 14, 2006, finding substantial evidence of a violation of the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance ("Human Rights Ordinance"). When Heritage failed to appear at a Commission-ordered a Conciliation Conference or Administrative Hearing on the merits of Petersen's complaint, the Commission was advised by Heritage's former President, Charles E. Parks ("Parks"), that Heritage's secured creditors had foreclosed on the business. The Commission requested documentation from Parks verifying the dissolution of Heritage by a letter dated December 18, 2006. Parks did not provide the requested documentation, but the Commission has not proceeded against Heritage's remaining officers or the new owners of its former assets because Petersen has also disappeared.

Pursuant to the Commission's Procedural Rules:

Complainants and Respondents have the responsibility to promptly provide the Commission with notice of any change in address or any prolonged absence from their current address so that they can be located when necessary at any time while a Complaint is pending before the Commission. In addition, Complainants and Respondents are responsible for providing the Commission with necessary information and being available for interviews and conferences upon reasonable notice or request by the Commission. If a Complainant or a Respondent cannot be located or does not adequately respond to reasonable requests by the Commission, the Commission may dismiss the Complaint or default the Respondent at their last known addresses.

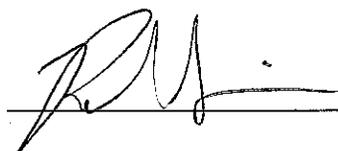
CCHR Pro. R. 440.125.

Here, on June 23, 2014, an investigator from the Commission working on Petersen's case spoke with Ronald Schwartz ("Schwartz"), the attorney who had represented Petersen during the Commission's investigation. Schwartz stated that he was no longer representing Petersen (or was even still practicing law). Commission staff then attempted to contact Petersen directly at the phone number listed on her complaint. This phone number, however, was no longer in service. Having failed to contact Petersen telephonically, the Commission followed up on June 24, 2014, with a letter to Petersen at the address listed on her Complaint. On July 3, 2014, the United States Postal Service returned the Commission's June 24, 2014, letter, with an affixed label stating, "Return to Sender. Not Deliverable as Addressed. Unable to Forward." Petersen provided no other contact information, and the Commission has not been able through investigation to find any additional contact information for her. The Commission's practice in circumstances, such as this, is to dismiss the complaint and close its investigation. *See, e.g., Cope v. Chicago Apartment Finders*, 2007E070 (CCHRC Jun. 3, 2014); *Hermanstynne v. Ver Petro, Inc.*, 2006PA003 (CCHRC May 13, 2014); *Panozzo v. DelMar Builders*, 2010E048 (CCHRC Jan. 13, 2014); *Jenkins v. Staffing Network Holding, LLC*, 2012E001 (CCHRC Jan. 13, 2014).

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission orders that complaint 2000E054 be DISMISSED for FAILURE TO COOPERATE. In accordance with CCHR Pro. R. 480.100(A), either party may file a request for reconsideration with the Commission within 30 days of the date of this order.

July 11, 2014

By delegation:



Ranjit Hakim
Executive Director of the Cook County
Commission on Human Rights