

Ms. Karen Gorman
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

U.S. OFFICE OF
SPECIAL COUNSEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
2018 DEC 16 AM 6:52

RE: OSC File No. DI-12-3553

Dear Ms. Gorman,

Please find listed below my corrections for the information given in the statements provided to me for review. There are quite a few that need to be addressed. They all pertain to the telephone conversation between me and Kayte Pratt, RN Area Nurse Consultant, Office of Healthcare Programs.

1. My nursing experience did include working for a Federally Qualified Health Care Center; however, her location is completely inaccurate. I worked for Mirasol Family Health Care Center in Hermiston, Oregon from June of 2010 to June of 2011, at which time I went to work for Indian Health Services in Browning, Montana.
2. I never held a Montana Nursing license. I worked on my valid OREGON nursing license while in Montana.
3. I do not deny that I worked in Whiteriver, Arizona on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. This was my first nursing job. However, Ms. Pratt's statement that I was terminated after two weeks is completely inaccurate. I worked there for 10 months prior to leaving. I was originally terminated but the union stated that the termination was unfounded. I had reported a co-worker for workplace harassment, and was let go two weeks later. I never complained about patient concerns at Whiteriver. In addition, I loved my job at Whiteriver. I ended up dreading going to work whenever I was scheduled to work with a certain co-worker that was creating a hostile work environment.
4. I did not voice the idea my standards were in conflict with other nursing staff.
5. I agree that I stated that the government quarters in Browning, Montana were not safe to live in. However, the peeping Tom was at the very start of our tenancy, around August of 2011. We did not call the police on that instance, but we did inform hospital security of the situation. In February of 2012, our car was broken into and our GPS was stolen. That was the first time we called the police. Six weeks later, on 3/17/12, someone attempted to break into our house. This was the intruder that we ended up holding at gun point, in our back yard, until the police came.
6. Packs of wild dogs and horses do roam the complexes, making it dangerous for anyone in the area to walk, or even use the park in the housing complex.
7. The only theft and vandalism I reported was the theft of our GPS and the handle being broken off our car by the attempted home intruder.
8. I did not state that my patient loads were frequently overwhelming. I gave one specific example of being overloaded and not receiving any help from the rest of the staff. The loads were not unfairly assigned; the staff would just refuse to take an assignment, so a shift in loads was necessary.

9. I NEVER stated that missing a dose of medication was “not a big deal.” I did state that the missed medication was not necessary, per the pediatrician based on the diagnosis of the child.
10. I did “lose it” emotionally after the code mentioned. This family had just lost one member, and the code was an elder of that family. I had been taking care of these family members for months and was close to them. That is why I locked myself in the med room to cry. The med room door is self-locking, and any of the nursing staff and providers could come in. In fact, the doctor that ran the code did come in to the med room to reassure me that I did everything I could do and that the death was just a sudden massive heart attack that could not have been resuscitated from.

This is my formal written statement in response to the information provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather M. Dawson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Heather M. Dawson, RN BSN