

December 12, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Andrew McDonald, Esq.
Chief Legal Counsel
State Capitol, Room 200
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: D-SNAP Investigation

Dear Andrew:

As you may know, I am counsel to a growing number of state employees who have either been officially advised that they are being investigated by the Malloy Administration or have sought advice from me on how to prepare for what they feel is the start of a political witch-hunt.

Over the last several days, while the press has consistently provided the administration with positive coverage concerning Governor Malloy's declaration to root out fraud by state employees, I have been able to uncover a much different story – a story that paints a picture of a government overwhelmed by the response of its citizens to the availability of the D-SNAP program. More than a dozen of my clients have independently corroborated one or more of the following incidents or issues (these are but a few examples):

1. DSS workers (some brought in from Child Support to assist in the overwhelming response) spending as little as 35 seconds to 3 minutes in processing D-SNAP applications;
2. DSS workers refusing pay stubs from applicants and insisting that workers were eligible based on inconsistent information regarding qualification for D-SNAP;
3. DSS workers providing completely different advice concerning eligibility across multiple DSS offices;
4. DSS workers telling applicants that even if they had money in the bank, the applicant could qualify if "they had bills to pay";
5. DSS workers not turning away ANYONE at any location; and
6. DSS workers utilizing an application form created in September 2010 which does not contain the same information provided to some applicants concerning eligibility.

Rich Rochlin
Attorney at Law

Perhaps the administration is aware of these facts but has yet to report that it is conducting an internal investigation. Workers' jobs and lives can and will be impacted by how this investigation proceeds.

As such, and in light of the foregoing, I hereby request, on behalf of my clients and for the other workers you have yet to investigate (and for the 22,000 others who applied for this one-time benefit), that the Governor immediately engage Witt Associates to conduct a thorough investigation of DSS and the Governor's office in its administration of the D-SNAP benefits. During such investigation, we believe it to be prudent to issue a moratorium on all investigations and statements to the press.

We recognize that fraud is something that cannot be tolerated. We must, however, not lose sight of the fact that everyone is entitled to a presumption of innocence. This is even more important when allegations of incompetency, mass disorganization, haste and dishonesty surrounding the accuser's own administration (DSS) form the basis of the underlying accusations.

Please contact me at your convenience to discuss this further.

Very truly yours,

Rich Rochlin