

2009 Lobbyist Registration Audit of Jim Spears

FINDINGS

Mr. Spears failed to timely register as a lobbyist for three employers. (See Registrations section).

EMPLOYER

- BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. D/B/A AT&T Tennessee
- General Motors Company
- Pfizer Inc.
- TN Rural Cooperative Communications Assn.
- Tennessee Gas Association

REGISTRATIONS

Mr. Spears registered as a lobbyist for five employers during 2009. Mr. Spears failed to timely register for three of his employers.

The lobbying relationship with Pfizer Inc. was a written agreement. The agreement had terms from March 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. Based on the agreement the trigger date for registration was determined to be March 1, 2009. Therefore, the lobbyist was required to register by March 8, 2009. Mr. Spears registered on March 17, 2009, which is 9 days late.

The lobbying relationship with Tennessee Rural Cooperative Communications Association was outlined in an e-mail agreement provided by the lobbyist. The agreement had a term from March 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. Based on the agreement the trigger date for registration is March 1, 2009. Therefore, the lobbyist was required to register by March 8, 2009. Mr. Spears registered on March 26, 2009, which is 18 days late.

The lobbying relationship with Tennessee Gas Association was a written agreement. The agreement had a term from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. However, the agreement was signed on December 11, 2008. Since the contract was signed on December 11, 2008, this appears to be the trigger date for registration. Therefore, the lobbyist had to register by December 22, 2008. Mr. Spears registered on January 5, 2009, which is 14 days late.

LOBBYING AGREEMENTS

Based on a review of the audit documentation provided by Mr. Spears, he has a written contract with his employers. (As noted above one of the contracts is an email agreement instead of a standard type contract.) The terms of each contract appear to be within the statutes for lobbying activities including having no terms for contingency payments based on lobbying success.

FAMILY OR BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Mr. Spears reported he had no business or family relationships with persons who are officials in the legislative branch or officials in the executive branch.

TRAINING & FEES

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Mr. Spears completed his required lobbyist training for the 2009 registration year and paid all associated registration and training fees.

IN-STATE EVENTS

Mr. Spears did not participate in paying the costs of any in-state events.