

Request for Redetermination

SS# [REDACTED]

This is a request for redetermination of the denial of Unemployment Benefits for the week of 4/30/2006.

My benefits were denied because I did not state how the action of my employer Devra West (Surya Ma Devi) affected me. I spoke of the immediate cause for my resignation and tried to convey the atmosphere in which I was required to work.

I was hired on December 12, 2005 as a copy editor. When I began work I found that my job title was Administrative Assistant for Fire of Mind Publishing, a subsidiary of Surya Enterprises (Millennia Mind, Inc.) I was immediately put to work as an assistant to the financial manager and doing the physical set up of the office. Health insurance was advertised and promised but never put into effect because there was no money to pay the premium. I canceled my Cobra in January on the promise of insurance benefits. I received none and remain without health insurance.

On March 23, 2006 at 4:50 PM Devra wrote a letter offering jobs and signed my name to it. She then asked me as I was walking out the door on that Friday evening to post the letter at health food stores and yoga centers over the weekend. I took the flyers and decided that I was very uncomfortable posting jobs in my community that had my name on it. This discomfort came from the fact that according to the financial manager, Betsy Blank there was \$1000.00 in the bank and the promised funding that Devra had been trying obtain was not secured. I was also becoming apprehensive about the entire atmosphere, Devra's verbal abuse of Dr. Pat Cole, the attempt to find funding from viatical securities made me very uncomfortable. I was uncomfortable with the fact that Devra seemed to be creating liabilities for her books based on what she stated her previous non profit organization owed her. I had witnessed her putting together those figures by asking Dr. Cole, who was the president of the non profit, to go within and ask the Masters how much Dr. Cole owed Devra as a result of the dealings of the non profit (Global Guardianship Initiative). The final figure the "Masters" gave was \$18 million. (Please see Devra's website universalteachings.org)

I had already scheduled to have March 27th off and when I came to work on Tuesday the 28th Devra was out sick, she remained out all that week and I was sick on March 31st and April 2, so I did not see Devra that week and had no opportunity to talk to her about the job flyers. On Tuesday, April 3 Dr. Pat Cole asked to meet with me. At that time I was reprimanded on my dress, I was wearing business casual and was told I was to wear "casual elegant", I was criticized for wearing linen slacks. I was also reprimanded for not getting the weekly activity reports and the upcoming schedule to

Devra so she could peruse them over the weekend. All the work was complete and sat on my desk from Thursday March 30 until Tuesday April 3rd when I returned to work. There had been no protocol established to get work to Devra if she was not in the office. At that meeting with Pat I told her that I had not posted the flyers. On Wednesday April 4th Devra called a staff meeting and confronted me, I was sitting to her right at the conference table, she stood and bent down into my face and screamed at me with spittle flying, that I had no right to disregard her directives. At the time I admitted that I was wrong and should have said something but in retrospect I realized she hadn't even been in to the office for me to talk to her. I did not bring it up with Dr. Cole because Dr. Cole had been asked to leave the business and was in the process of transitioning out of the office. Present at that meeting were Betsy Blank, Wendy Stuart, Carolyn Bridgeman, Jamie Haywood, Dr. Pat Cole, myself and Devra.

Devra West's abusive treatment of Dr. Cole had made me wary of any confrontation with Devra after the dressing down I had received concerning the job flyers. I was also baffled by the fact that a retired family practitioner would accept the CONSTANT abuse. For at least an hour EVERY day Devra would pull the entire staff or sometimes just one staff member aside and berate Dr. Cole for all her failings. (This can be confirmed by other employees.) We were told that this was a process to help break down her doctor ego. I, at first accepted this because I was not being asked to become a disciple and though I really didn't understand Dr. Cole's incentive I let it be because until that point all I had ever heard was Devra asking Pat to go within and see what the "Masters" were telling her to do. At some point after the beginning of April, I heard Devra tell Dr. Cole to go "within" to see what "Master El Morya" had to say. When Pat responded, I heard Devra yell "that's not what he said!". I think that we can go within to find the answers we need sometimes but when someone else tells us that what we hear while we are listening to ourselves is wrong, I question that.

On April 28th at the staff meeting Devra demanded that all her employees become disciples. It was apparently her intention to fire me and Carolyn Bridgeman but when she made that demand I resigned. When I said I was leaving Devra said "Good, that is what I had planned on for today and Carolyn (Bridgeman) you are fired".

I have written the above in an attempt to show the atmosphere in which I had been working. **My claim has been denied because I did not show how this affected me. Firstly, it is my understanding that I am protected under the constitution. Employers are bound by the laws of the "state"; I am not obliged to declare religious allegiance in order to keep my job. Secondly, I did not make any attempt at that time to resolve the issue because I had already had a confrontation with her over the job flyers and in light of the "assault" on Dr. Pat Cole that had occurred, I was afraid of Devra .** To further illustrate the working environment I am including a copy of an element of the policies and procedures manual to further illustrate the atmosphere.