

**Docket No. TE-210470 - Vol. I**

**OnStar Limousine – Transportation Court**

**September 15, 2021**



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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In the Matter of Determining ) DOCKET TE-210470  
the Proper Carrier Classification )  
of, and Complaint for Penalties )  
Against: )  
) )  
) )  
) )  
) )  
ONSTAR LIMOUSINE LLC, DBA )  
SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION GROUP; )  
SEATTLE CITY LIMO )  
)

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VIRTUAL TRANSPORTATION COURT, VOLUME I

Pages 1-15

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE SAMANTHA DOYLE

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(All participants appearing via videoconference.)

September 15, 2021

8:00 a.m.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
Lacey, Washington 98503

REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

SAMANTHA DOYLE

FOR COMMISSION STAFF:

JASON HOXIT  
Compliance Investigator  
Utilities and Transportation  
Commission  
PO Box 47250  
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jason.hoxit@utc.wa.gov

FOR ONSTAR LIMOUSINE:

TEKESTE TEKLE  
Owner Onstar Limousine

\* \* \* \* \*

1 LACEY, WASHINGTON; SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

2 8:00 A.M.

3 --o0o--

4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5

6 JUDGE DOYLE: Let's be on the record and get  
7 started. Good morning. My name is Samantha Doyle. I'm  
8 an administrative law judge with the Utilities and  
9 Transportation Commission.

10 Today is September 15th, 2021, and the time  
11 is approximately 8:00 a.m.

12 This is Docket TE-210470, which is a special  
13 proceeding to determine whether Onstar Limousine, LLC,  
14 doing business as Seattle Transportation Group is  
15 operating or has operated as a charter party or  
16 excursion service carrier without a certificate from the  
17 Commission.

18 Let's begin by taking appearances, then we  
19 can discuss how we will proceed this morning.

20 And the representative for the company, can  
21 you please state and spell your first and last name.

22 MR. TEKLE: Okay. First name is Tekeste,  
23 T-e-k-e-s-t-e, last name Tekle.

24 JUDGE DOYLE: And would you -- or sorry,  
25 would you state your position with the company.

1 MR. TEKLE: Owner of Onstar Limousine LLC.

2 JUDGE DOYLE: Thank you. And would you also  
3 provide your address, phone number, and email address.

4 MR. TEKLE: Okay. Email address would be  
5 tech@onstarlimo.com; phone number, 206-788-6990;  
6 address, PO Box preferred for mailing purposes, PO Box  
7 58461, Tukwila, Washington 98138.

8 JUDGE DOYLE: Thank you so much.

9 And appearance for Staff?

10 MR. HOXIT: Jason Hoxit, J-a-s-o-n,  
11 H-o-x-i-t.

12 JUDGE DOYLE: Thank you.

13 We're here today because the Commission  
14 issued a complaint against Onstar Limousine based on  
15 information that your business is operating or  
16 advertising as a charter party or excursion service  
17 carrier without a certificate from the Commission. If  
18 it's proven that you are, in fact, engaging in that  
19 conduct, the Commission will order you to stop operating  
20 and can impose some penalties of up to \$5,000 per  
21 violation.

22 As a preliminary matter, I'm going to ask  
23 you how you would like to proceed, and you have two  
24 options.

25 Option A is to agree to cease and desist

1 operating as an unpermitted charter or excursion  
2 carrier. If you choose this option, you must agree to  
3 stop providing, offering, and advertising unpermitted  
4 charter and excursion carrier services unless or until  
5 you receive a permit from the Commission.

6 If you're going to choose this option, you  
7 need to show what you have done to shut down your  
8 business either completely or partially so that you're  
9 no longer advertising, offering, or providing  
10 unpermitted charter and excursion services in this  
11 state. For example, you're going to need to provide  
12 proof that you've taken down or changed your website or  
13 other online advertisements for your business.

14 Also, if you've applied for or obtained a  
15 certificate in advance of this hearing, please let me  
16 know, and in that case, we will not ask you to stop  
17 operating, but we will want you to acknowledge that you  
18 were operating without a permit and that you agree you  
19 will stop operating if your certificate is suspended or  
20 cancelled in the future for any reason.

21 Now, option B is to ask for a classification  
22 hearing. You choose option B if you believe that your  
23 business is not subject to regulation by the Commission.  
24 In other words, you're denying that you advertise,  
25 offer, or provide unpermitted charter and excursion

1 carrier services. And if you choose this option, we  
2 will schedule a formal evidentiary hearing where you  
3 will be required to present evidence that your business  
4 is not subject to regulation by the Commission. The  
5 hearing would be set for about two months from now with  
6 a deadline a week before the hearing for both you and  
7 Commission Staff to list your witnesses and file  
8 exhibits.

9           And Jason Hoxit will be speaking for  
10 Commission Staff this morning. Mr. Hoxit is a  
11 Commission compliance investigator.

12           Now that we've gone over your choices, I  
13 will explain what else will happen today.

14           In a few minutes, I'll ask that you, the  
15 company, make a choice. First I will swear you in so  
16 that anything you say will be under oath, and once  
17 you're sworn in, I will ask if you understand your  
18 choices for today's hearing and then ask you to state  
19 your choice. If there's anything else you want me to  
20 explain, you'll have a chance -- or if there's anything  
21 else you want to explain to me, you will have to chance  
22 to do that.

23           If you choose option A, to testify about how  
24 you are getting out of the charter and excursion  
25 business, you can explain how you plan to do that.

1 Depending on what proof you can provide, you may be  
2 given an opportunity to meet with Staff during the break  
3 in the hearing to negotiate an agreed cease and desist  
4 order.

5 If you have recently applied for or received  
6 a permit, you will also be given an opportunity to meet  
7 with Staff to negotiate an agreed order to resolve this  
8 matter. The agreed order will also deal with the  
9 penalty.

10 You were each served with a complaint that  
11 asked the Commission penalize you for engaging in  
12 business as a charter or excursion carrier without a  
13 permit. The law sets the maximum penalty at each  
14 violation at \$5,000. Staff will recommend a penalty and  
15 you'll have a chance to reach an agreement with Staff  
16 about the penalty amount. If you're unable to agree,  
17 Staff will explain the recommendation, but the  
18 Commission will make the final decision about the  
19 penalty amount.

20 Finally, if you choose option B, that is if  
21 you deny you're operating as a charter and excursion  
22 carrier, we will schedule another hearing like I  
23 discussed earlier.

24 Mr. Hoxit, I will swear you in now.

25 (Jason Hoxit sworn.)



1 JUDGE DOYLE: And for the company,  
2 Mr. Tekle.

3 MR. TEKLE: Yes, ma'am.  
4 (Tekeste Tekle sworn.)

5 JUDGE DOYLE: Do you understand the choices  
6 I explained earlier?

7 MR. TEKLE: Yes, Your Honor.

8 JUDGE DOYLE: How would you like to proceed  
9 today?

10 MR. TEKLE: I will just take option A, and  
11 we discussed with Jason, and I basically sold the  
12 vehicle, and I removed any of the charter -- any vehicle  
13 that pertained to the TC with excursion and charter.  
14 And moved off site and basically we're no longer  
15 operating until, you know, in the future.

16 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. Well, at this point, we  
17 can take a break so you and Staff can talk and see if  
18 you can come up with an agreement. If you do reach an  
19 agreement, I will sign an order that will say that you  
20 are agreeing that you were operating without a  
21 certificate, that you advertised without a certificate,  
22 and that you agree to stop operating until you get a  
23 certificate if you decide to apply for one.

24 It will also include most likely an  
25 agreement about that penalty amount that was discussed,

1 but if not, you can explain why the penalty should be  
2 different than what Staff is recommending.

3 Before we take a break, do you have any  
4 other questions?

5 MR. TEKLE: Your Honor, we already -- you  
6 know, I have to go back to work in like another 30  
7 minutes. I don't know if Jason gave it to you, I'm not  
8 sure. Just to let you know for the...

9 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. So you've you already  
10 agreed with the -- with Staff and the stipulated order?

11 MR. TEKLE: Yes.

12 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. And you agree with the  
13 penalty recommendation of a thousand dollars now and  
14 \$9,000 suspended penalty?

15 MR. TEKLE: Yes, Your Honor.

16 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay.

17 MR. TEKLE: And then with installments of  
18 five payments.

19 JUDGE DOYLE: With five payments?

20 MR. TEKLE: Yes.

21 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. And -- okay. I just  
22 want to double-check. And for the record, you're  
23 agreeing to shut down operations unless you get a  
24 certificate, which is what I thought I heard you said  
25 earlier?

1 MR. TEKLE: Yes, that is correct.

2 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. And also, the order is  
3 a cease and desist. The order to cease and desist is  
4 permanent and it never expires. So if Staff discovers  
5 that you are still operating even after the two-year  
6 suspended penalty, Staff can go straight to Superior  
7 Court and ask for much higher penalties. So it's very  
8 important that you follow the law. Just wanted to make  
9 that clear.

10 MR. TEKLE: That is clear.

11 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. And I also want to  
12 remind you that if you miss a payment, you will have to  
13 pay the entire amount including the \$9,000 penalty  
14 that's suspended. If for some reason you're going to be  
15 late in making a payment, please contact Staff and make  
16 arrangements so you don't end up having to pay the full  
17 penalty and understand that legally -- do you feel like  
18 you understand what you can and can't do at this point?

19 MR. TEKLE: Yes, correct. Yeah, because I  
20 don't have no other vehicles, so I'm only advertising  
21 for the vehicles I have that are potentially -- that are  
22 in the state of Washington, but not making -- so I don't  
23 have no vehicles to sell or to advertise for UTC. So I  
24 should be okay by all means.

25 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. Great. And then

1 remember that Commission Staff are always available to  
2 assist you if you have any questions going forward.

3 At this point, does Staff have any --  
4 anything to add?

5 MR. HOXIT: Your Honor, I would just ask if  
6 the company has had a chance to review Order 02 in its  
7 entirety. I sent it to the company yesterday, but I  
8 haven't received anything back from the company as far  
9 as acknowledgement. So I just want to make sure they  
10 reviewed the entire document.

11 MR. TEKLE: Yes, yes, I received that -- the  
12 email, the breakdown, yes. I'm sorry I didn't reply.

13 JUDGE DOYLE: And then were there dates  
14 agreed for the five payments?

15 MR. HOXIT: Yes, Your Honor. We had five  
16 installments, September 17th, 2021; October 18th, 2021;  
17 November 17th, 2021; December 17th, 2021; and  
18 January 18th, 2022. And each installment is \$200.

19 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. Great.

20 Any additional questions at this point?

21 MR. TEKLE: No, Your Honor.

22 MR. HOXIT: The last question I would have  
23 is, is the company okay being served electronically to  
24 the email provided?

25 MR. TEKLE: Which email, Jason?

1 MR. HOXIT: The tech@onstarlimo.com?

2 MR. TEKLE: That is correct.

3 MR. HOXIT: Okay. Thank you.

4 JUDGE DOYLE: Great. Thank you so much.

5 All right. Well, I will issue the order  
6 later today. And as we just stated, Tech, you will  
7 receive a copy via email at the address that you  
8 provided and is -- and looks like -- okay.

9 Do we have any other business that we need  
10 to take care of today while we're all together?

11 MR. HOXIT: Nothing from Staff, Your Honor.

12 MR. TEKLE: Just one question. Hello there?

13 JUDGE DOYLE: Yes. Go right ahead.

14 MR. TEKLE: I did, in fact -- so from  
15 previous history, you know, we used to have the vehicle,  
16 and if people do say example -- I'm just trying to get  
17 clarification so I don't have no issues. I don't have  
18 the vehicle so it doesn't -- if someone refer me and  
19 says, hey, I need a vehicle for this particular size,  
20 that I used to have, and I say, I don't have it, but  
21 what I can recommend, is there -- what do I do then?  
22 You know, just making sure I don't have any other, you  
23 know -- a referral.

24 JUDGE DOYLE: So, Mr. Tekle, yeah, you still  
25 can't operate --

1           MR. TEKLE: Not operate, not operate, but  
2 I'm saying if somebody called my phone number, I'm just  
3 saying this is someone that's calling me, I don't have  
4 the vehicle, I'm just -- not the vehicle, but if  
5 somebody call me, do I say no, I don't have a vehicle  
6 and shut it off and say I can't do anything for you, go  
7 find your information, you know, of that particular  
8 vehicle or whatever, or I can just recommend a name?  
9 I'm just trying to say that. I'm just trying to be  
10 clear, to the point for referral purposes.

11           JUDGE DOYLE: Are you saying you're -- can  
12 you refer to another business that is permitted  
13 operating?

14           MR. TEKLE: Yeah, that's what I'm saying.  
15 If somebody called me and said, hey, I need the car that  
16 you have, well, I don't have it anymore. Do you know  
17 where I can find or recommend -- like recommendations or  
18 my referral experience they want that I'm saying. Do I  
19 have -- you know, I mean, because I'm not advertising,  
20 but, you know, people have your number from past  
21 experience from other people, how would you, you know,  
22 take care of that issue I'm trying to say.

23           JUDGE DOYLE: Yeah, absolutely. You may  
24 refer to a permitted carrier.

25           MR. TEKLE: Okay. So I have to do my

1 research and/or I can just tell him just go on to UTC?

2 JUDGE DOYLE: Right. And you don't have to  
3 refer them. If you knew of a referral, you may give a  
4 referral. You're not required to know. You could  
5 simply state that you're no longer in business and they  
6 need to continue looking. If you know of somebody that  
7 you want to refer to that's permitted by the Commission,  
8 you may refer, but there's no requirement that you refer  
9 anybody.

10 MR. TEKLE: Oh, okay. So yeah, I can just  
11 say go to this person. I don't want to be like no for  
12 advertising, like here's the number for this company.  
13 That's what I'm trying to say. You know, I wanted to  
14 clarify. I don't give, you know, as advertising  
15 anything, you know?

16 JUDGE DOYLE: Right, right. Referring to a  
17 permitted company wouldn't be considered advertising,  
18 but you're also not required to do it.

19 MR. TEKLE: Okay. That was it. That was  
20 the only question I had.

21 JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. Great. Well, I think  
22 with that, we are all set. Thank you all for joining  
23 this morning. We are adjourned.

24 (Adjourned at 8:17 a.m.)

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.



Tayler Garlinghouse  
Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

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