

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
PENALTY ASSESSMENT TV-240750

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete and sign this document and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the Penalty Assessment. Use additional paper if needed. I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, competent to testify to the matters set forth below, and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements.

- 1. **Payment of penalty.** I admit that the violation(s) occurred.
 - Enclose \$14,900 in payment of the penalty.
 - OR Attest that I have paid the penalty in full through the Commission’s payment portal.

- 2. **Contest the violation(s).** I believe that the alleged violation(s) did not occur for the reasons I describe below (if you do not include reasons supporting your contest here, your request will be denied):
 - a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision.
 - OR b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

- 3. **Application for mitigation.** I admit the violation(s), but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below (if you do not include reasons supporting your application here, your request will be denied):

See document attached

- a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision.
- OR b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: 11/05/2024 [month/day/year], at Everett, WA [City, State]

Martinson Piano Moving LLC

Name of Respondent (company) – please print


Signature of Applicant

Penalty Assessment
TV-240750



November 5, 2024

RE: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Martinson Piano Moving, LLC
Docket TV-220148

To: Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary,

I have received the UTC notification and reviewed the violations and details. I appreciate the role of the UTC and have worked hard to ensure my company is safe and compliant. These violations were unintentional due to misinformation on my behalf. I believed medical certifications were every three years and had scheduled them accordingly. I trusted they were due in February 2025; thus I gave my team notice that we had a target completion date of September – December 2024. We had completed those in September 2024 ahead of schedule, so I thought. Now that I recognize they are every TWO years, I have adjusted and updated our calendar to ensure we do not miss these critical dates. I take the medical certifications seriously as well as public safety. This was not in any way a willful action, merely a scheduling oversight due to erroneous information guidelines I had misunderstood during the 2022 investigative process. Moving forward, I took immediate action to remedy this and ensure that medical certifications are completed every two years for each driver by meeting with my drivers and office manager to discuss accountability, priority, and expectations in this area, updating the reminder notices on our schedule, and manually documenting this in our calendar. These changes will safeguard the two-year deadline requirement to keep Martinson Piano Moving LLC in compliance.

Additionally, the commercial vehicle inspection was also a misstep on my part. I take full responsibility. We had purchased a replacement vehicle, and I had sent it in to be fitted with the equipment we require and forgot to ask for the formal inspection which we normally do. It was purchased from a dealership and inspected there so it was crossed off in mind as completed. This act was in no way a deliberate disregard for safety, rather the action of an overworked, looking-to-retire-soon owner. I have always strived to maintain our vehicles in accordance with state law to protect employee and public safety.

Finally, as a small business I work very hard to provide a living wage and benefits for my employees and a penalty fee of this magnitude would be a strain on my business. The money I make goes right back into the business and the employees and this penalty fee amount would add another monthly payment hardship. I am committed to ensuring that no future violations take place, and I have initiated actionable, sustainable, and measurable modifications that provide accountability. I appreciate your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Martinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eric Martinson, owner, Martinson Piano Moving LLC