

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Determining the Proper
Carrier Classification of, and Complaint
for Penalties against:

STARVING STUDENTS, INC.

DOCKET TV- 200309

DECLARATION OF
BRIAN BRAUN

Brian Braun, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, declares as follows:

1. I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) as a compliance investigator in the Consumer Protection Section. As a compliance investigator, my responsibilities include conducting investigations regarding the business practices of regulated utility and transportation companies. As part of those duties, I investigate household goods carriers that may be operating without the required Commission permit.
2. On January 23, 2020, I visited the Starving Students' website, www.ssmovers.com, and found the company offered to provide household goods moving services in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington. The website stated to "Call (888) 931-6683 to book a move in Seattle WA."¹
3. On January 23, 2020, I searched the Washington State Department of Revenue's website and found a company name of Starving Students, Inc., a contact name/governing individual of Ethan Margalith, and an associated registered trade name of Starving Students of Seattle.²
4. On January 23, 2020, I searched Commission records and verified that neither Starving Students, Inc., Ethan Margalith, nor Starving Students of Seattle are a permitted household goods carrier.
5. My search of Commission records produced Docket TV-160441, which showed that Starving Students, Inc., was a previously permitted household goods carrier (HG041035) and that Starving Students, Inc., was notified on April 23, 2016, that its permit was

¹ See Attachment A for a copy of the website, printed on Jan. 23, 2020.

² See Attachment B for a copy of Dept. of Rev. record, printed on Jan. 23, 2020.

canceled due to Insufficient Proof of Insurance. The notification further stated that “You must immediately CEASE all operations associated with this permit.”³

6. On February 6, 2020, I called 888-931-6683 using an assumed name to obtain a quote for moving services to occur on March 12, 2020, between Kent and Seattle, Washington. The person answering the phone identified themselves as Jay and said I had reached Starving Students. Jay offered a rate of \$104.99 an hour for workers, a truck, and equipment.⁴
7. I requested a copy of the offer. At the top of the emailed quote, “Washington HG41035” is displayed.⁵

DATED this 3rd day of April, 2020, at Lacey, Washington.



BRIAN BRAUN

³ See Attachment C for a copy of the cancellation letter, dated on April 26, 2016.

⁴ See Attachment D for a copy of phone log, conducted on Feb. 6, 2020.

⁵ See Attachment E for a copy of the quote, printed on Feb. 6, 2020.