

**PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: **JANUARY 22, 2019**

TO: **DISTRIBUTION**

FROM: **CAPTAIN RAY WHITELEY ^{RW}**
 Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: **SHERIFF'S FINDING**

Per Sheriff Gualtieri, Child Protection Investigator Taylor Pittman, #59418, will receive the following as a result of AI-18-032:

1. Forty (40) hours Suspension to be served on:

January 23, 24, 29, 30, and 31, 2019.

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy Dan Simovich
Assistant Chief Deputy Sean Jowell
Assistant Chief Deputy George Steffen
Colonel Dave Danzig
Major Stefanie Campbell
Major Bill Hagans
Major Paul Halle
Major Sean McGillen
Major Larry Nalven
Lieutenant Deanna Carey
Director Jennifer Crockett
Director Nancy Duggan
Director Susan Krause
Director Jason Malpass
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply
Taylor Pittman

RW/kmm

**PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2019

TO: CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATOR TAYLOR PITTMAN, #59418

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-18-032

An investigation has been conducted by the Administrative Investigation Division, Professional Standards Bureau, of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. As a result of this investigation, the Administrative Review Board has determined you committed the following violation:

On, but not limited to, May 2017, while off duty in Pinellas County, Florida, you violated the Pinellas County Sheriff's Civil Service Act Laws of Florida, 89-404 as amended by Laws of Florida 08-285, Section 6, Subsection 4, by violating the provisions of law or the rules, regulations, and operating procedures of the Office of the Sheriff.

1. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.4, Duties and Responsibilities.

While assigned as a Child Protection Investigator Trainee for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, you posted child protection investigation information, which you knew was confidential on the public website, Reddit.

In June 2018, it was brought to the attention of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Child Protection Investigation Division that a Child Protection Investigator may have posted confidential information related to a minor child on a website, Reddit.

The title of the thread was, "CPS workers of Reddit, what was the worst case you have seen?" The information posted was detailed and related to a child under the care of the child welfare system by a specifically identified username on the website. The post listed a child's age, how much a family received from a lawsuit and details of the injury that prompted the lawsuit.

A review of the post determined it may have been posted sometime around May 2017. Upon further review of the information posted by the identified username, it was suspected you were the member who initiated to post.

In August 2018, you were confronted by your supervisor about the post at which time you admitted to writing the post about the case on Reddit.

You explained you were not personally involved with this particular case, nor did you have any firsthand knowledge of this case. Rather, you learned of it while completing a training phase when one of your instructors shared the details of the investigation with you.

You acknowledged you were aware the information provided during training or in any formal capacity as it relates to your position as a Child Protection Investigator with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is protected and confidential.

You acknowledged the reason why you disseminated this confidential information in a public forum was because you "wanted to belong" and be included in the community surrounding this profession. You stated that you have since deleted your account for this username on Reddit.

During the Administrative Interview you provided the following testimony:

- You testified you were familiar with, and obligated to adhere to the standards of conduct set forth in the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Code of Ethics; Florida Code of Ethics CF Operating Procedure Number 60-05 Chapter 5 and the Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct published by the Florida Certification Board.
- You testified that, with the identified username you authored a post on the website Reddit in which you publically shared confidential, case-related child protection investigation information.
- You testified that the information contained within your Reddit post was "similar" to the information contained within the official investigative case file.
- You testified, "Obviously it is a big deal because it's confidential information that's just out on the internet."

During the Administrative Review Board you provided the following testimony:

- When asked if you agree if the post, as you wrote it, was a release of confidential information you responded, "Yes."
- You also admitted you were aware prior to making this post that you were not to post or release any confidential information.
- You admitted, "I know what I did was wrong."
- You admitted, "I know I didn't make just one mistake, but I made several mistakes and I had several lapses of judgement and poor decision making."
- You admitted, "I made several bad decisions throughout the case of this."
- You admitted, "We work, my job, with highly sensitive information and that should not be thrown out on social media."

You admitted to this violation.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of one Level Five Rules and Regulations violation totaling fifty (50) points. These points, which were affected by no modified points from previous discipline, resulted in fifty (50) progressive discipline points. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from five (5) days Suspension to Termination.

Disciplinary action shall be consistent with progressive discipline, for cause in accordance with the provisions of the Pinellas County Civil Service Act.

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MAJOR LARRY NALVEN
INVESTIGATIVE OPERATIONS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 11/18/19

Time 10:40

Taryn Pitts
SIGNATURE

BG:RHO