

**John Clough Complaint by [REDACTED] in Charleston 12/09/2014 at 5:48pm**

On December 9<sup>th</sup> at approximately 5:48pm I (Sheriff Rankin) was contacted by the manager of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that Deputy Clough came into his place of employment while in uniform and stated he herd that ([REDACTED]) lost the County's bid in fixing our vehicles. [REDACTED] advised Deputy Clough that was news to him. [REDACTED] stated that Deputy Clough ate some of their food on the counter during this time and never needed any service or anything and then left.

[REDACTED] advised me that he was sick at his stomach when Deputy Clough came in and told him this information. [REDACTED] also stated that he has had personal issues with Deputy Clough [REDACTED] and that he had some reservations about contacting me because he feels Deputy Clough would retaliate in some way.

I advised [REDACTED] that I never advised anyone that [REDACTED] would be losing our business.

[REDACTED] stated he would appreciate it that Deputy Clough not makes comments that are not true about losing business because it's his livelihood.

[REDACTED] stated he did not want to file a formal complaint but thought I (Sheriff Rankin) needed to know what Deputy Clough is saying about our department.

I advised Chief Freezeland of the complaint and advised him to advise Lt. Huston, and place in evaluations.

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This behavior adversely affected the [REDACTED] was concerned that their business had lost business with the Sheriff's Department. [REDACTED] also felt he had done something wrong during his conversation with Deputy Clough.

Nothing Further

Sheriff Rankin

01/19/2015 [REDACTED]

01/21/2015 [REDACTED]

02/27/2015 [REDACTED]





6/11/2015 I was advised by Detective Sgt. Stephen [redacted] that he was made aware of a gun case. Deputy Clough was working on and failed to write a report on the pertinent information. Sgt. Stephen [redacted] forwarding me a report of Deputy Clough's failure to report information.

9/01/2015 I was driving south on 18<sup>th</sup> street in Charleston at 2:18pm in a school zone when I observed a county squad car driven by deputy John Clough veer off the roadway and over the curb. Deputy Clough was traveling north on 18<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Clough then veered back onto the road traveling north on 18th.

When I returned to the department I went down stairs and Deputy Clough was laughing outside of Lt. Huston's office. He stated "did you see that?" (Laughing) Deputy Clough then stated, "I dropped my spit cup and drove off the road." I did not reply to him or make any comment. I then returned to my office and called Lt. Huston to my office. I advised Lt. Huston what I observed and to address it with Deputy Clough. I advised Lt. Huston that there is to be no tobacco products in the Coles County Squad cars. I also advised Lt. Huston to address Deputy Clough's driving habits & to NOT have tobacco products in his county vehicle. This incident was in a school zone and it was unbecoming of a deputy.

Lt. Huston was advised to counsel Deputy Clough & put this incident in his evaluation.

**Section: Administration**

**Title: Smoking Control/Smokeless Tobacco**

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**Violation of Coles County Policy**

**An employee will not use smokeless tobacco when in the presence of the public. The use of smokeless tobacco is strictly prohibited in all county owned vehicles at all times.**

Nothing further

**Deputy John Clough called in sick at 7:00am**

9/30/15 I arrived back at the department from lunch at approximately 1:05pm and observed Deputy Clough county assigned patrol car was parked in my parking spot. At 1:10pm Deputy Clough was walking from the corrections section and I opened the door to the front Office and stated to Deputy Clough "please do not park in my parking spot anymore". Deputy Clough laughed and stated "Okay" rolling his eyes, then walked out the front door. I was very polite and made this an order.

I had previously requested Deputy Clough not park in my parking spot but did not document it at the time. It is now documented.

Section: Administration

Title: Courtesy/Disobedience to Orders

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Violation of Coles County Policy Courtesy/Disobedience to a direct order

10/06/2015 5:55 am Deputy Clough [REDACTED]

10/07/2015 6:55 am Deputy [REDACTED]

10/08/15 8:02 am I was speaking with Lt. Huston at the front window of the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Clough was observed limping to work. Deputy Clough stated he had a goiter in his foot as he entered the department. I asked Lt. Huston to speak to Deputy Clough to see if he could perform his duties to the best of his ability. Later in the day Lt. Huston stated that Deputy Clough advised him he was fine.

10/08/15 1:35pm I was asked to speak to a [REDACTED] (at the front window of the Sheriff's Office) in reference an accident he and his wife was involved in on 09/25/15. Mr. [REDACTED] advised me (Sheriff Rankin) that Deputy Clough had taken an accident report and was supposed to send him a copy of the final report. [REDACTED] also advised me that he was reading the newspaper and observed that the suspect [REDACTED] was not issued a citation for no insurance. [REDACTED] stated that Deputy Clough advised him that Mr. Dunn had no insurance at the time of the accident. I requested that Mr. Dunn be patient and I will contact his supervisor to find out what had transpired and have the supervisor contact him.

I asked Salisa to print off all the information on the incident such as. Incident Report, Accident Report & Booking Sheet. I took this information and addressed the incomplete accident report & requested a full report from Lt. Huston on the entire incident.

Lt. Huston advised the accident report has been completed in full. Lt. Huston stated that Deputy Clough did not issue a "No Insurance" citation. I advised Lt. Huston that in the future Deputy Clough and all Deputies will issue a no insurance citation if during any contact with a driver on a stop or accident, if no insurance is presented or expired. No Exceptions, it's the law.

Nothing follows

10/28/2015 Deputy [REDACTED]

11/24/2015 Deputy [REDACTED]

12/01/2015 Deputy [REDACTED]

12/02/2015 Deputy [REDACTED]



12/04/2015 Deputy Clough arrived in late to work 8:04am, Lt Huston was advised that Deputy Clough was late for duty and to Counsel Deputy Clough to be on time for duty.

12/29/2015 I entered the Detectives section and Deputy Clough was standing in the middle of the walk way and I asked him if he was busy? Deputy Clough responded, "I'm busy standing here!" in a smart elect tone. I went to the squad room to retrieve some civil papers that needed to be served and Deputy Clough

12/31/2015 Deputy Clough Called in sick @ 6:12am

01/05/2016 I requested from Sgt. Spear to see the east and west side packets and he advised me that Deputy Lane had the West side and he would have to retrieve the East side packet for me. After looking into the East side packet I observed that a plenary order of protection has not been attempted in the last couple of days. I however did observe the East Side Deputy at the department for over 2 hours having coffee, sitting in different sections not working. I advised Sgt. Spear to have Deputy Clough return to work. I observed Sgt. Spear speak to Deputy Clough in the parking lot & Deputy Clough left the Department. Lt. Huston advised that I had addressed the issue of Deputy Clough being at the Department for an excessive amount of time when there was warrants and papers that haven't been attempted, he served. I requested again that Lt. Huston address with the Sergeants that warrants and civil papers need to be attempted when all deputies are not on a call, lunch, or a traffic stop.

01/06/2016 Deputy Clough Called in sick at 6:17am

01/18/2016 Deputy Clough Called in sick at 6:27am

01/21/2016 Deputy Clough Called in sick at 6:41am

01/22/2016 Deputy Clough Called in sick at 6:31am

01/29/2016

talking with [REDACTED] concerning [REDACTED]

Deputy Clough [REDACTED]

03/22/2016

Deputy Clough [REDACTED]

Deputy Clough [REDACTED]

Deputy Clough [REDACTED]

Deputy Clough [REDACTED]

3/30/2016 Deputy Clough called in sick at 4:52am

3/31/16 On March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 Ce Com had a call for the east side deputy. Ce Com called over the air for the East Side Deputy and Deputy John Clough in a harsh tone stated "Just give us the call". Ce Com advised the nature of the call. I called the squad room and Deputy Clough answered and I asked who was the East Side Officer and Deputy Clough stated, "Clough". Deputy Clough then responded to the Call. Deputy Clough is the acting supervisor on this day, and as the acting supervisor he was to advise Ce Com at the beginning of the shift of side assignments. Deputy Clough failed to do so causing Ce Com to request the assignments. Failure to notify Ce Com of side assignments/rude and unprofessional behavior.

Section: Administration

Title: Courtesy/Disobedience to Orders

10-01-08 Administration page 3 of 10 & 4 of 10

Violation of Coles County Policy, Courtesy



**On 3/31/2016** Deputy John Clough called out 213 on portable at 12:22pm not giving a location.

Sgt. Spear has been advised on multiple occasions that deputies are to call out a location when exiting there vehicle. We need to know where the Deputies are at all times in case of an emergency.

**Section: Administration**  
**Title: Courtesy/disobedience to orders**  
**10-01-08 Administration 3 of 10 & 4 of 10**  
**Violation of Coles County Courtesy Policy/failing to obey orders**

**On 4/01/2016** Deputy John Clough called out 213 on portable at 11:41 am, not giving his location.

Sgt. Spear has been advised on multiple occasions that deputies are to call out a location when exiting there vehicle. We need to know where the Deputies are at all times in case of an emergency.

**Section: Administration**  
**Title: Courtesy/disobedience to orders**  
**10-01-08 Administration 3 of 10 & 4 of 10**  
**Violation of Coles County Courtesy Policy/failing to obey orders**

**On 5/10/2016 Deputy John Clough called in sick at 6:51am**

**On 5/13/2016 at 8:32am** Sheriff Rankin observed Deputy Cloughs car in the parking lot without a computer in it. Sheriff Rankin then went to the squad room and observed Deputy Clough picking up the civil packet. Deputy Haughee also present. Sheriff Rankin asked who was in charge of the shift and Deputy Clough stated "That would be me, what up?" Sheriff Rankin asked if side assignments were called in to CeCom and Deputy Clough stated "No, I am going through the

On 07/28/2016 Dep [REDACTED]



On 07/29/2016 Deputy John Clough called in sick at 6:47 am

On 08/03/2016 Deputy John Clough called in sick at 7:01 am

On 08/03/2016 Sheriff Rankin was out at the Coles County Fair and observed Deputy Clough working the Republican Party Booth. I contacted Chief Freezeland and asked if Deputy Clough had called in sick for the day and he replied yes. I advised Chief Freezeland the Deputy Clough was out at the Coles County Fair working the Republican Party Booth. I advised Chief Freezeland that it was extremely hot in the tin building and Deputy Clough appeared to be red faced and flush and appeared to be very sweaty. I was concerned about Deputy Clough's health and asked Chief Freezeland to see what restrooms Deputy Clough has on his Doctors note. Chief Freezeland advised that Deputy Clough has no restrooms. Deputy Clough called in sick on 08/03/2016 and on his feet in a tin building. Chief Freezeland later advised that Deputy Clough will call in sick on 08/04/2016.

On 08/15/2016 Deputy Clough was assigned county patrol vehicle 2000. Deputy Clough's assigned vehicle was pulled out of service. Per Sheriff Rankin's request on 08/15/2016 at 1:47 pm, I gave Deputy Clough permission to keep his duty assignment. Deputy Clough is on vacation. Deputy Clough's statement is as follows: "I am on vacation. If he gave Deputy Clough permission to keep his assigned squad at his residence while he is on vacation. He stated that he would like to take Day shift Sergeant to retrieve Deputy Clough's vehicle. I told him to have Deputy Clough write me a 'to go' form. I told him that the vehicle is not to be taken home per policy. Lt. Holcomb is the only one who can take the vehicle home. This is evaluations."

Deputy Clough's statement is as follows: "I am on vacation. If he gave Deputy Clough permission to keep his assigned squad at his residence while he is on vacation. He stated that he would like to take Day shift Sergeant to retrieve Deputy Clough's vehicle. I told him to have Deputy Clough write me a 'to go' form. I told him that the vehicle is not to be taken home per policy. Lt. Holcomb is the only one who can take the vehicle home. This is evaluations."

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Deputy Clough called in sick 09/28/2016 at 10:30pm  
Deputy Clough called in sick 09/28/2016 at 6:51am  
Deputy Clough called in sick 10/01/2016 at 10:04pm  
Deputy Clough called in sick 10/02/2016 at 7:00pm  
Deputy Clough called in sick 10/13/2016 at 7:11pm  
Deputy Clough called in sick 10/13/2016 at 10:06pm

Deputy Clough called in sick 10/13/2016 at 10:06pm  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
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Deputy Clough called in sick 10/13/2016 at 10:06pm  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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On December 22, 2016 I went down to the Squad room at the Sheriff's Department at approximately 10:45am to drop off civil papers and warrants when I observed Deputy Reinhart, and Deputy Clough sitting in the squad room. I also observed Officer Easterday from Charleston PD sitting in the squad room as well. Officer Easterday stated to Deputy Clough that Officer Joel from CPD tested for Sargent, Deputy Clough stated that Joel was a "fucking idiot and has no business supervising anyone". I continued on out of the Squad room at that point. I did contact Chief Deputy Freezeland and report the incident at 10:53am.