

10/28/2015

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jim Sponder and I am the CEO and Director of Quality Control of Aviation Consultant Expert Solutions (ACES), in Sioux City, IA. I am writing this letter to discuss the actions of my business partner, Travis Stein, in regards to a helicopter that was acquired by my company in September of 2013. The primary intention for having this helicopter was for use in our ACES flight school. The helicopter (N5335U serial number 64-18042) was brought to serviceable condition in October of 2013 and Travis Stein had made arrangements for himself to take flight training in Chicago, IL and obtain instructor rating for the Hughes TH-55A helicopter so ACES could then teach ACES flight school students on this airframe.

Prior to leaving for his training, in late October, 2013, Travis Stein and Axle Simonetti flew the helicopter briefly around the area on the South side of the ACES hanger. Neither of these men had experience or pilot ratings to fly the ACES helicopter. In November, Travis and his instructor pilot flew the helicopter to Chicago for his scheduled training.

Travis flew the helicopter back to Sioux City, IA from Chicago, IL in May of 2014. He had been gone getting training for several months and, since he is an experienced fixed wing aircraft pilot with several ratings, I assumed that his training was complete and he had received his ratings to fly the ACES helicopter. After he returned, I saw Travis fly the helicopter with a passenger, Kevin Boyer to the RiverTime bar in Ponca, NE. that same day they stopped at my parent house at [REDACTED] Sioux City, NE 68776, he had flown both my son and mother in the helicopter. I have pictures of Travis flying my son Jack Sponder.

On June 10, 2014 Travis flew the ACES helicopter to have a meeting with an Endeavor Airlines representative. I received a call that day from Travis Stein. He told me that he had flown to a company called JetPubs in Hudson, WI and wrecked the helicopter and we needed to figure out a way to get it out. Kevin Boyer and myself were on our way to the ACES hangar to get tooling for an ACES contracted repair in Minneapolis, MN when this happened. Travis called a little while later saying he found a trailer to put the helicopter on and I would need to pull it back to Sioux City.

Kevin and myself had a repair to perform for Endeavor Airlines before we could pick up the helicopter. After completing the repair, we met Travis and Larissa Fildes (President of Jetpubs) at Jetpubs office at [REDACTED] Hudson, WI 54016. Travis showed us where he crashed the helicopter in a raven of trees on the West side of Jetpubs office. Larissa Fildes informed me she watched the helicopter crash. They informed me that Rochelle Johnson was a passenger in the helicopter when he crashed. We then went to a house to pick up the helicopter, which had already been loaded on a trailer. I witnessed Travis putting tape on the N number located on the tail boom. We helped Travis tie the helicopter down and hooked onto the trailer with my Excursion and trailered it back to Sioux City Iowa. Travis stated to me that we could not report the crash to our insurance because our rates would go through the roof and our best avenue would be to strip it down and sell the parts (which I refused to do).

I was present several times after the incident when Travis would lie to people asking him about where the helicopter was. He would tell them the helicopter was out making money and when it came back to Sioux City he would give them rides. I saw Rochelle Johnson at a convention later that year and she told

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me that she had suffered a back injury in the helicopter crash and had problems with her back for several months after the incident.

The day of the crash was the day that I learned that Travis Stein didn't ever finish getting his helicopter rating. He had flown my friend, my mother, and my child without making that fact clear to me. Ultimately, he crashed my companies' helicopter and hurt a young woman flying an aircraft that he wasn't qualified for. After these events occurred, Travis showed no concern for the effects of his choices and actions on our company or the people that he led to believe were safe flying with him.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions about this matter.

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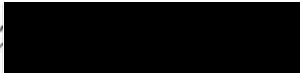
Jim Sponder

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10/27/15

To Whom This May Concern,

I Kevin Boyer flew in ACES Bell 269A With Travis Stein On May 17, 2014 under the assumption he was licensed to fly it. We flew from ACES hanger to Ponca bar on the river and landed in the road. Then from there we flew to Bob Grimms house. Then we flew from Grimm's home to ACES hanger. Shortly After That I believe June 10th 2014 Travis Stein Crashed the helicopter With a Setpubs employee by the name of Rochelle Johnson Just outside the Setpubs officed to the west. On June 12th 2014 Travis had myself & Jim Spender PICK UP the trailer that the Wrecked helicopter was on and bring it back to Sioux City.


Kevin Boyer
ACES AOG Manager.