

Clark said he received the letter, understood the contents and wished to have the meeting now.

David said words the following effect:

"Hi Clark, the reason I am here today and the reason I drafted that letter for you, is because on Monday or Tuesday, A customer called City Ford making a complaint regarding an abusive message he was sent allegedly by you. The message was in the letter I sent you where amongst other things, you called him an idiot. He threatened to post this on the forums and advise the manufacturer. Moe called the customer and it then came to Mark's attention. Since then, Michael Clements has become aware of this. Did you send that message to the customer and if so why would you do that? It is not just viewed as serious misconduct, but wilful if you intended to do that.'

Clark replied with words to the following effect:

"Yes. I sent that message. I have been depressed and have anxiety. I know it's no excuse. I have never acted that way before. I just snapped. It was around 8 pm, I was at home, just had an argument with my wife about our bills. I have a \$500,000 mortgage, she is on job keeper, my pay and commissions have also been hit, we can no longer afford our daughter school fees, I even drive a \$1 car because I can't even afford to pay the FBT on my company car. Last week my Dad's sister died and my dad's kidneys are like at 13%. He doesn't have long either. I am constantly driving up to care for him while still doing 50 hour weeks and work on my days off and still can't afford anything.

I know it's no excuse but you asked why so I am just being honest. Again, I had just finished arguing with my wife, was drinking, trying to have dinner when I saw the autogate message. I wasn't' thinking and just had a brain snap. Obviously you know this is not the way I have ever acted at work and will take more care at home.

I can only say, I know it was wrong, I need this job, and would never do it again. Do you think Mark will sack me over this?"

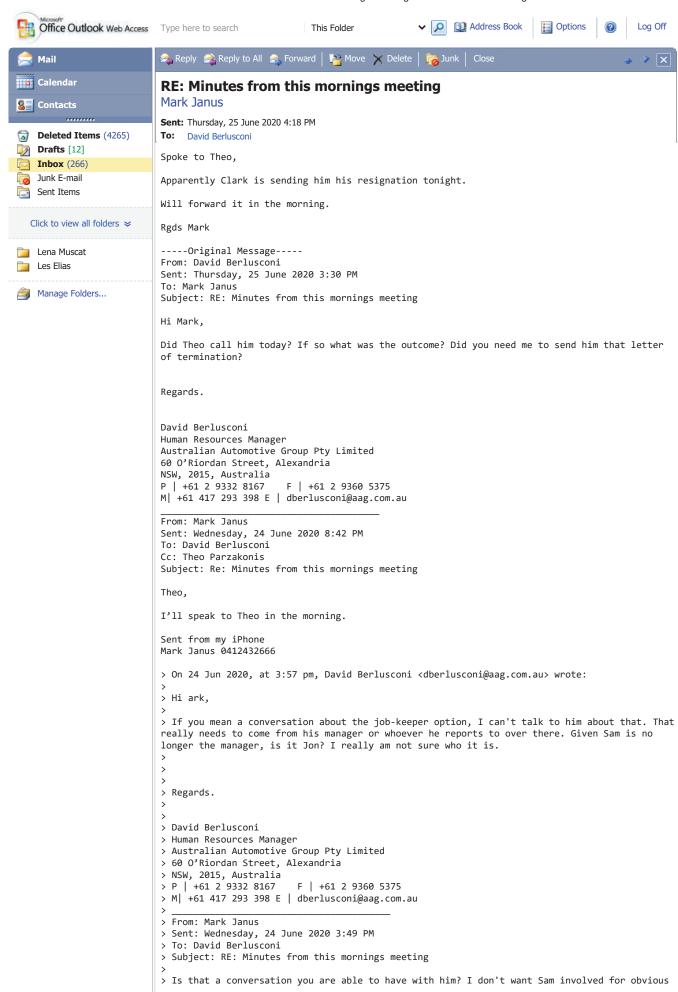
David replied with words to the following effect:

"I don't know what Mark will do. Again, he asked me to investigate this and find out what happened from your end and your reasons. I can say in my view, Mark would consider this type of misconduct, serious in nature. From what you are saying it was also wilful. I know Mark has terminated staff for less and I don't know what he will do here. But I will type these minutes out and get you to confirm they are correct and then I will send them through to Mark. When he gets back to me, I will let you know or your manager will. Do you have any more questions?'

Clark said no. The meeting concluded at 10.20 am.

Regards.

David Berlusconi Human Resources Manager Australian Automotive Group Pty Limited 60 O'Riordan Street, Alexandria NSW, 2015, Australia P | +61 2 9332 8167 F | +61 2 9360 5375 M| +61 417 293 398 E | dberlusconi@aag.com.au



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reasons. Fine with the letter
> ----Original Message----
> From: David Berlusconi
> Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 3:40 PM
> To: Mark Janus
> Subject: RE: Minutes from this mornings meeting
> Hi Mark,
> Please find the attached letter.
> His manager (Maybe Sam?) should call him and let him know it is coming when i send this.
It's just good form. I dare say he may spiral into depression so it's good to have his manager
> Another option you may wish to consider, is have his manager ring him and say HR is about to
terminate. However, given his financial situation, if he wants to resign with an end date of
31 July and move to JjobKeeper hours only in that time, we can accommodate and that will give
him $4500 (or around) and time to look for work. We would place him on gardening leave and not
allow him back in the workplace and close off his access. But he needs to put it in writing
now.
> Anyway, attached is the letter. please give me your thoughts.
> Regards.
> David Berlusconi
> Human Resources Manager
> Australian Automotive Group Pty Limited
> 60 O'Riordan Street, Alexandria
> NSW, 2015, Australia
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> From: Mark Janus
> Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 3:08 PM
> To: David Berlusconi
> Subject: RE: Minutes from this mornings meeting
> I don't think he would have a go.
> ----Original Message-----
> From: David Berlusconi
> Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 3:02 PM
> To: Mark Janus
> Subject: RE: Minutes from this mornings meeting
> Hi Mark,
> OK, I will draft a termination letter and email it through.
> Just as a formality, regarding risk, I think he may win an unfair dismissal saying "in the
circumstances" a first and final would have been sufficient. The circumstances being, never a
prior warning, out of character, it was at 8 pm at night, death in family, and loss of income
so just keep that in mind.
> Anyway, I will draft a letter and send it through for your perusal. Give me 30 minutes.
> Regards.
> David Berlusconi
> Human Resources Manager
> Australian Automotive Group Pty Limited
> 60 O'Riordan Street, Alexandria
> NSW, 2015, Australia
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> M| +61 417 293 398 E | dberlusconi@aag.com.au
> From: Mark Janus
> Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 11:26 AM
> To: David Berlusconi
> Subject: RE: Minutes from this mornings meeting
> Unfortunately he needs to go.
> It's too higher risk. If we don't take action over this it will insight the customer to go
public. Not a risk I'm prepared to take after the Brookvale service fiasco.
> ----Original Message----
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> From: David Berlusconi
> Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 11:21 AM
> To: Mark Janus
> Subject: FW: Minutes from this mornings meeting
> Hi Mark,
> I had the meeting with Clark this morning and asked him to confirm the details. Please see
the minutes of the meeting below.
> I will advise Clark he can go home pending an outcome.
> Regards.
> David Berlusconi
> Human Resources Manager
> Australian Automotive Group Pty Limited
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> NSW, 2015, Australia
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> From: Clark Hargrave
> Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 11:18 AM
> To: David Berlusconi
> Subject: RE: Minutes from this mornings meeting
> Hi David , Once again I am extreamlly sorry and apologetic. I have never done this in my
life before. Ive been selling cars for 25years and with Ford for 20 \text{years} . I had a brain snap
and would do anything to reverse this if I Could.
> Regards,
> Clark Hargrave
> Sales Representitive
> City Ford Chullora
> Corner of Worth St & Hume Hwy, Chullora
> Ph: 9642-0385 - Mb: 0404-024552 - Fax: 9742-5070 www.cityfordchullora.com.au
> ----Original Message----
> From: David Berlusconi
> Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 11:03 AM
> To: Clark Hargrave
> Subject: Minutes from this mornings meeting
> Hi Clark,
> Can you please confirm the minutes below. Please note these will be ent to Mark so If there
is anything there you need me to amend, please let me know.
> I met with Clark at 10.00 am at City Ford Used Cars in Chullora. The meeting was in PK's
(F&I) office on 24.06.20.
> I asked Clark if he received the letter I emailed him yesterday and if he understood the
contents in it. I also asked Clark if he wanted to continue with the meeting now or
reschedule.
> Clark said he received the letter, understood the contents and wished to have the meeting
now.
> David said words the following effect:
> "Hi Clark, the reason I am here today and the reason I drafted that letter for you, is
because on Monday or Tuesday, A customer called City Ford making a complaint regarding an
abusive message he was sent allegedly by you. The message was in the letter I sent you where
amongst other things, you called him an idiot. He threatened to post this on the forums and
advise the manufacturer. Moe called the customer and it then came to Mark's attention. Since
then, Michael Clements has become aware of this. Did you send that message to the customer and
if so why would you do that? It is not just viewed as serious misconduct, but wilful if you
intended to do that."
> Clark replied with words to the following effect:
> "Yes. I sent that message. I have been depressed and have anxiety. I know it's no excuse. I
have never acted that way before. I just snapped. It was around 8 pm, I was at home, just had
an argument with my wife about our bills. I have a $500,000 mortgage, she is on job keeper, my
pay and commissions have also been hit, we can no longer afford our daughter school fees, I
even drive a $1 car because I can't even afford to pay the FBT on my company car. Last week my
Dad's sister died and my dad's kidneys are like at 13%. He doesn't have long either. I am
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constantly driving up to care for him while still doing 50 hour weeks and work on my days off
and still can't afford anything.
\gt I know it's no excuse but you asked why so I am just being honest. Again, 1 had just
finished arguing with my wife, was drinking, trying to have dinner when I saw the autogate
message. I wasn't' thinking and just had a brain snap. Obviously you know this is not the way
I have ever acted at work and will take more care at home.
> I can only say, I know it was wrong, I need this job, and would never do it again. Do you
think Mark will sack me over this?"
> David replied with words to the following effect:
> "I don't know what Mark will do. Again, he asked me to investigate this and find out what
happened from your end and your reasons. I can say in my view, Mark would consider this type
of misconduct, serious in nature. From what you are saying it was also wilful. I know Mark has
terminated staff for less and I don't know what he will do here. But I will type these minutes
out and get you to confirm they are correct and then I will send them through to Mark. When he
gets back to me, I will let you know or your manager will. Do you have any more questions?"
> Clark said no. The meeting concluded at 10.20 am.
> Regards.
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