

August 3, 2011

Via E-Mail & U.S. First-Class Mail

Linda Van Velsan  
Supervisor, Quality Management  
PADI Americas  
30151 Tomas  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-2125

**Re: Your letter of July 26, 2011**

Dear Ms. Van Velsan:

I was stunned to read your letter of July 26, 2011 expelling me from PADI. Your letter invited me to call you “if” I have any questions regarding this matter. Given the seriousness of this matter, please accept my questions in writing and share them with the Quality Management Committee.

My first question, naturally, is: *What are the specific grounds for my expulsion?* Your letter only notes that my “continued membership is not in the best interest of PADI,” and that “consequently [I] have been expelled.” Please explain why my membership is no longer in PADI’s “best interest.” If I have violated any PADI rule or standard, please identify it.

My second question is: *Why did PADI determine that expulsion was the appropriate remedy (for whatever I did) as opposed to suspension or some other less drastic option?* PADI’s web site notes that the organization “expels members only as a last resort” and that “[e]xpulsion only results when the PADI Member refuses to implement corrective measures, or when the nature of the complaint is so severe that expulsion is necessary to protect the public and/or to preserve the reputation of the PADI family at large.” The web site also notes that “when members deviate from standards, the Quality Management Program acts to get them back on track to avoid future problems.” As you know, PADI has not requested that I implement any “corrective measures”; nor am I aware of any “complaint” made against me to PADI.

My final question is: *What was the process used to determine that I should be expelled?* Your letter suggests that the incident report that I submitted regarding ██████████’s death was the only “available information regarding this issue,” and the decision to expel me was subsequently “adjudicate[d]” by committee. Again, I referred to PADI’s web site to learn about the organization’s standard process for investigating incidents. PADI’s “Summary of Routine Quality Assurance Inquiry” appears to be a detailed flow-chart for investigating diving incidents. I would like to know whether PADI followed its standard procedure in adjudicating my case.

I look forward to receiving answers to my questions soon. I would also welcome the opportunity to provide additional information regarding [REDACTED]'s death in the event that PADI chooses to reconsider its decision to expel me.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]