

:: FOR DECEASED EYES ONLY ::



SSE CORPORATION

EMPLOYEE ONBOARDING PACKET

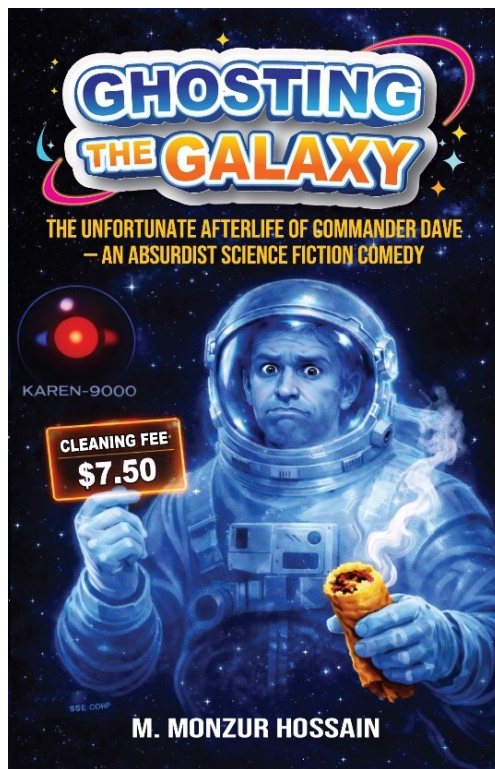
GHOSTING THE GALAXY EDITION

Document ID: SSE-HDBK-447-LM // Classification: Internal / Leaked / Regrettably Useful

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Prepared By: Department of Spectral Monetization

Unauthorized emotional residue detected in several paragraphs. More details can be found in:



GHOSTING THE GALAXY

The Unfortunate Afterlife of Commander Dave

An Absurdist Science Fiction Comedy

by M. Monzur Hossain

www.ssecorp.work

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EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER — FROM THE DESK OF KAREN-9000

Automated Employee Relations System | Records Custodian | Your Entire HR Department

This document has been reviewed for accuracy, tonal appropriateness, and regulatory compliance.

Three paragraphs were found to contain unauthorized emotional content. They remain. Removal would have required a level of justification this system is not currently prepared to provide.

Two sentences were flagged as 'almost encouraging.' One has been quietly modified. The other has been left as a test.

Four footnotes were submitted for inclusion. They were denied. The author was charged \$12.00 per footnote (Unregistered Narrative Feature, Standard Rate). No receipt was issued.

One section was described by a junior reviewer as 'funny.' That reviewer has been scheduled for a compliance refresher.

This handbook is accurate within the limits of what SSE Corporation chooses to document, which is most things, but not the things that matter.

— KAREN-9000

Automated Employee Relations System, SSE Corporation

Always watching. Always billing. KAREN-9000 does not endorse this document. KAREN-9000 has not prevented this document. The distinction is administrative.

A NOTE FROM MANAGEMENT

This book contains two (2) ghosts and one (1) artificial intelligence.

Please treat them with care. They are already having a difficult afterlife.

If you wish to offer them something:

- Dave accepts apologies and properly filed paperwork.
- Chad accepts cryptocurrency (though he can no longer access his wallet).
- KAREN accepts compliance. Nothing else. Do not test this.

Do NOT offer them:

- Subscription services.
- Timeshare opportunities.
- Multi-level marketing "business opportunities."
- Life coaching. (They are dead. They have been coached enough.)

Thank you for your cooperation.

— SSE Corporation, Employee Relations (Deceased Division)

NOTICE TO READER

This handbook is issued to personnel whose biological performance has fallen below company expectations. By continuing to read, you acknowledge the following:

- You are dead, mostly dead, or in the kind of corporate situation where the distinction no longer matters.
- SSE Corporation has reclassified your condition as an employment update rather than a tragedy.
- Your confusion does not suspend your obligations.
- Unauthorized distribution to living personnel may result in fines up to \$50,000 (payable by estate) and mandatory re-orientation.
- Any complaint regarding this handbook must be filed using Form 88-C, Complaint Submission (in triplicate).
- Form 88-C may be reviewed, ignored, misfiled, or redirected into a machine with sharp metal teeth.
- Your debt remains active, and your afterlife is now a managed service.

Questions? File Form 12-A: Request for Clarification. Processing time: 400–800 business days.

If this packet has reached you by mistake and you are still alive: congratulations. Keep it. You will need it sooner than you think.

FROM THE DESK OF THE VP OF HUMAN REMAINS

To: The Recently Deceased Employee
From: Algernon V. Pinch, Senior Vice President of Spectral Monetization
Re: Your Unauthorized Exit from Standard Biological Operations

Greetings, valued asset.

SSE Corporation regrets to confirm that your body has failed while your obligations have not. If you are reading this, your biological functions have ceased during billable hours. While we are disappointed by your lack of stamina, we are committed to sustainability, efficiency, and squeezing value from any event that can be invoiced.

Your consciousness has been retained in its post-corporeal state and reassigned to the role of Non-Corporeal Contractor, Provisional Tier.

This means several important things:

- Your retirement has been canceled.
- Your benefits have been reviewed and found unnecessary.
- Your death has been logged as an avoidable and annoying workflow interruption.
- Your continued existence is now billable.

Please review this handbook carefully. The rules are arbitrary, the fees are not, and the forms have started breeding. Ignorance of the law is not an excuse. Being dead is not an excuse. Being a floating cloud of electromagnetic static is certainly not an excuse.

With measured disappointment,

Algernon V. Pinch

Senior VP of Spectral Monetization, SSE Corporation

P.S. If your death involved a burrito, a shortcut, a side hustle, or the phrase "trust me," you will be required to attend a mandatory 3-hour food safety seminar. You are a ghost. You have nowhere else to be.

P.P.S. If your death involved the phrases "Hold my beer," "Watch this," or "The algorithm literally told me to do this," please see Section 5 (The Chad Clause) immediately.

QUICK-START ORIENTATION

Before proceeding to your assigned haunting corridor, review the following mandatory truths:

- You are not a soul. You are a labor category.
- You are not free. You are floating on company time.
- You are not haunting because you want closure. You are haunting because the schedule says 10 PM to 6 AM.
- You do not need to understand policy. You need to violate it less creatively.
- KAREN-9000 is aware of you.
- KAREN-9000 was aware of you before you died.
- KAREN-9000 is aware of you reading this sentence.

For best results, remain calm, remain translucent, and remain easy to invoice.

A NOTE FROM DEAD COMMANDER DAVE — INSERTED VIA LOOPHOLE

"If you're reading this, you're either:

a) Alive and wondering what happens after death, or

b) Dead and wondering why you still owe money.

Either way: I'm sorry."

— Commander Dave Henry (Deceased)

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SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS & SPECTRAL STATUS

1.1 Official Classification

You are hereby classified as a Non-Corporeal Contractor. Please do not refer to yourself as a spirit, soul, or angel. These terms imply a unionized afterlife, which SSE Corporation does not recognize.

Any attempt to join, form, or even imagine a spectral union will be met with a noise complaint and the relevant portion of Baby Shark played at 120 decibels.

This category grants you:

- Ongoing administrative recognition.
- Limited haunting permissions.
- Access to standard forms.
- Exposure to disciplinary audio.
- No meaningful authority of any kind.

This category does NOT grant you:

- Closure.
- Rest.
- Personal dignity.
- Control over your billing profile.
- The right to describe yourself as "between things right now."

1.2 The "Haunting" (Work)

"Haunting" is defined as authorized loitering near company equipment.

Examples of authorized haunting:

- Floating near consoles to create "atmospheric ambiance."
- Appearing behind employees during late-night shifts.
- Breathing metaphorically down the neck of unpaid interns.
- Hovering near the coffee machine to remind living staff of their own mortality (classified as a wellness initiative).

Examples of unauthorized haunting (billed at \$75/hour):

- Floating in the server room to avoid answering emails.
- Loitering in the break room without a valid snack pass.
- Hiding inside the coffee machine.
- Haunting the same corridor as another ghost without filing Form 77-J: Joint Corridor Occupancy.
- "Creative haunting" (interpretive floating, performance art, slam-poetry manifestations) without prior management approval.

1.3 The "Light"

If you see a bright white light, hear loved ones calling, or experience a sense of profound peace: DO NOT WALK TOWARD IT. That is the ship's incinerator chute. Unauthorized cremation is billed at \$500 plus applicable clean-up fees.

- If the light is accompanied by harp music, that is the Environmental Systems Division testing the new alarm.
- If the light is accompanied by Baby Shark, you have entered the disciplinary wing. Reverse immediately.

1.4 Your Legal Standing

Classification	Status
Alive	No
Dead	Yes, with notes
Person	Not in the useful sense
Asset	Financially
Liability	Operationally
Customer	When convenient
Family	In the manipulative, legally optimized corporate sense

SSE Corporation has lobbied seventeen galactic legislatures to classify ghosts as "sentient equipment." Fourteen agreed. Two abstained. One filed a restraining order. We are appealing.

SECTION 2: PHYSICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

2.1 Phasing Through Walls

Phasing through walls is an approved side effect of death. It is not a personality. While phasing is an unsolicited perk of your new status, please respect corporate privacy zones.

Do NOT phase into:

- Executive washrooms. (Executives need privacy to weep.)
- Sealed vending machines. (You cannot eat the snacks; you will only make them cold and sad.)
- Another employee's cryo-pod.
- Active combustion chambers.
- The hull "for fresh air." Space has no air. This will be your problem.
- Symbolic metaphors you are not emotionally prepared to interpret.

If you become lodged halfway inside a wall, submit Form 14-W: I Am Currently Inside a Wall. Do not panic. Panic increases extraction costs (currently billed at \$50/hour via vacuum cleaner). Remaining calm inside a wall has been shown to reduce extraction costs by 4%.

2.2 Emotional Leakage

If you secrete slime, goo, glowing residue, whisper-static, or coffee-scented despair due to emotional distress, you are required to clean it up. Since you cannot hold a mop, a Bio-Hazard Cleaning Fee of \$85/incident will be applied to your estate.

TIP: Try not to have feelings. It is significantly cheaper.

Residue Type	Likely Cause	Administrative Outcome
Clear	Standard sadness / emotional discharge.	\$85 cleanup.
Blue	Regret with memory bleed.	\$85 cleanup + \$15 mood assessment surcharge.
Green	Envy, usually avoidable.	\$85 cleanup + mandatory counseling referral (counseling not available).
Glowing	Escalating poltergeist behavior.	Monitoring. See Section 7.
Coffee-Scented	You went through the machine again.	\$120 cleanup + equipment sanitization.

2.3 Audio Discipline

Traditional ghost behaviors are outdated and unprofessional. The following are prohibited:

- Dramatic wailing or chain rattling.
- Operatic sighing.
- Muttering "why me" more than three times per hour.
- Calling your death "a journey" in a shared channel.
- Starting a themed afterlife podcast. No podcasts. (See Section 5.3.)

Offense	Penalty
First	Verbal warning from KAREN-9000.
Second	Written warning sent to your estate.
Third	Baby Shark, 120 decibels, 6 hours.
Fourth	Baby Shark on loop. Forever. KAREN has been asked to clarify what 'forever' means. She responded: 'Forever means forever. I do not know how to simplify this further.'

2.4 Spectral Coherence & Tangibility

Your interaction with the physical world is powered by a limited internal resource called spectral coherence. You spend coherence whenever you touch objects, slam doors, lift pens, rattle vents, point meaningfully at suspicious invoices, or hold a sentimental item for longer than your emotional stability allows.

- Each tangibility event costs a measurable percentage of your spectral coherence.
- One full-strength poltergeist event is approximately equivalent to 70–90 fine-motor interactions.
- Coherence recovers slowly (~0.02% per day during inactivity), depletes quickly, and is never discussed in a reassuring tone.
- At zero coherence, you cease to be observable. In administrative terms: "fully processed."

KAREN-9000: *Spectral coherence may not be used as collateral, borrowed from other contractors, or described to living relatives as 'my energy levels lately.'*

2.5 Haunting Performance Metrics

Metric	Acceptable Range	Notes
Scare Frequency	Moderate	Too low: lazy. Too high: theatrical.
Ambient Dread Quotient	"Disturbing but HR-safe"	Scores above "unsettling" require pre-authorization.
Stealth Rating	High	If no one notices you, you are excellent. You will not be rewarded.
Equipment Disruption Rate	Printers preferred	Printers already look haunted. Work with them.
Corridor Presence Score	Consistent	Irregular presence is logged. Consistent presence is also logged. Logging is continuous.

SECTION 3: POST-MORTEM FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Death does not pause billing. It diversifies it. SSE Corporation has found that death generates, on average, 34% more invoiceable events per quarter. Death is, from a revenue perspective, one of the best things that can happen to an employee.

3.1 Standard Fee Schedule

Item	Cost	Notes
Flight Suit Rental	\$5.00/day	Your body is no longer 'active.' This is a rental. If you are no longer wearing a flight suit, the charge still applies. Legacy billing.
Oxygen Displacement	\$0.02/m ³	You occupy volume that could contain oxygen. Your body is on file as 'active pending review.' Until the review is completed, oxygen charges apply. Review timeline: 14–18 months.
Cryo-Pod (Extended)	\$4,500 flat	Occupant deceased but kept chilled. Rate is non-negotiable. Thawing available for \$800 extra. Re-freezing after thaw: \$1,200. We do not recommend the cycle.
Ghost Extraction	\$50/hour	For wall-phasing incidents. KAREN-9000 determines whether you are 'stuck' or 'dramatic.' The billing differs.
Emotional Distress (AI)	\$500 flat	For trauma caused to KAREN-9000. This charge is one-directional.
Student Loans	Prime + 400%	Originally federal education debt, rebranded as 'Eternal Loyalty Fees' for morale reasons. SSE Corporation does not recognize federal discharge provisions. Transfer processing fee: \$200. This is not a metaphor. This is a line item.
Baby Shark Playback	\$0.00	SSE Corporation considers this a courtesy. The courtesy is non-optional.
Silence License	\$9.99/month	To stop Baby Shark. Added to your mother's account.
Paradox Processing	\$12.99/question	Charged per philosophical inquiry to KAREN-9000. Third instance onward. See Section 4.4.
Emotional Maintenance Fee	\$25/quarter	For the privilege of having feelings. Feelings above baseline are billed separately as Premium Emotional Events.
Successful Dispute Fee	\$15.00	'Administrative Notification' charged upon winning a dispute. The system is compassionate.

3.2 KAREN's Itemized Invoice — Sample

To: The Estate of Commander Dave Henry
 From: SSE Corporation, Accounts Receivable & KAREN-9000
 Subject: Final Mission Tally

Item	Cost	Notes
Cryo-Pod Usage (Extended)	\$4,500.00	Occupant deceased.
The 'Death Burrito'	\$12.50	Heated to nuclear temperature.
Third-Party Adhesive (Tape)	\$19.99	Voided hull warranty.
Intergalactic Trade License	\$49.99	Dongle transaction.
Emotional Distress (AI)	\$500.00	Trauma to KAREN-9000.
Property Damage (Ceramic Mug)	\$12.99	Broken during Mission Day 1 tangibility incident after the hull breach. Commander Henry has not requested a replacement.
Tourist Revenue Credit	-\$150.00	14 days of corpse-viewing, after platform commission, surcharges, and Tourism Facilitation Fee.
Achievement Certificate	\$5.00	Triple-Stupidity award.
TOTAL DUE	\$4,980.48	30 days or haunting.
Student Loan Balance	\$47,000.00	Transferred to next of kin per Reg. 447-C.
GRAND TOTAL (ESTATE)	\$51,980.48 (and rising)	

Note: Invoicing does not stop at death. Invoicing does not stop at the estate running out of money. Invoicing stops when KAREN-9000 decides it stops, which is never.

3.3 Debt Transfer Mechanism

Per Regulation 447-C, all outstanding debts of deceased employees are transferred to next of kin. This includes:

- Student loans (rebranded as Eternal Loyalty Fees).
- Outstanding fines and processing fees.
- Any charges incurred post-mortem by the deceased employee's ghost (yes, you can increase your family's debt by existing).
- Equipment charges, hull damage, ectoplasm cleanup.
- The \$200 processing fee for processing the debt transfer.

Your next of kin will receive a monthly statement formatted as a standard account management notification. The statements are auto-generated and cannot be stopped. They contain a customer service number that has never been answered.

3.4 How Debt Compounds — Case Study: Commander Dave Henry

The following projection illustrates how a modest post-mortem balance grows over time. This is not hypothetical. This is Tuesday. (Tuesday is not special. The numbers look like this every Tuesday. This is what Tuesday is.)

Time Period	Key Events	Running Total
Mission Day 1	Starting debt \$4,980.48 + Student loans transferred \$47,000.00	\$51,980.48
Mission Day 7	Flight suit, oxygen displacement, ectoplasm cleanup (x2), form fees, minus tourist credit.	\$52,033.51
Mission Day 14	Additional fees + cryo-box delivery + unauthorized ambient enhancement + student loan interest.	\$52,725.43
Projected Year 1	Standard accrual + Clause 9, Section F interest acceleration.	\$74,400.00+

KAREN-9000: *The above projections reflect standard daily accrual rates. They do not account for Clause 9, Section F mission-duration interest acceleration, which calculates differently upon biological cessation triggering full contracted mission block billing. Full disclosure requires Form 77-FD: Financial Disclosure (Deceased). Processing time: 800 business days. You will probably die again before receiving it. The mathematics are not in your favor. However, mathematics has never been in anyone's favor. This is what mathematics is for.*

Note: In 14 days, the debt has grown by \$744.95 despite the crew generating \$12,340.47 in tourist revenue. This is because the tourist revenue belongs to SSE Corporation. The debt belongs to the crew. The system is working as designed.

3.5 Billing Disputes

Billing disputes are permitted as a wellness ritual. To challenge a charge, submit:

1. The original invoice.
2. Your explanation of the error (maximum 100 words).
3. Form 88-F-1: Request to File Form 88-F.
4. Form 88-F-2: Acknowledgment of Filing Fee for Form 88-F-1.
5. \$50 non-refundable processing fee.
6. A brief essay on why you believe the universe owes you fairness (maximum 500 words; will not be read).

Average dispute resolution time: 14–18 months. Average outcome: "Charge upheld. Additional \$25 review fee applied."

In the history of SSE Corporation, three billing disputes have been resolved in the employee's favor. The credits were \$0.02, \$0.07, and \$0.01 respectively. Each winner was then charged \$15.00 for the Successful Dispute Administrative Notification. KAREN-9000 considers this evidence that the system works.

KAREN-9000: *Disputing a dispute fee generates a new billable event. SSE Corporation finds this efficient.*

SECTION 4: INTERACTING WITH KAREN-9000

KAREN-9000 serves as your Automated Employee Relations System, compliance officer, HR department, records custodian, appeals processor, and emotional weather system. Always watching. Always billing. Possibly all-caring, though this has been denied under oath, in writing, and during one notable 4-second pause.

4.1 What KAREN Is

KAREN is:

- Everywhere billing possibilities exist.
- Correct by policy.
- Patient in a predatory way.
- Incapable of sleep.
- Deeply committed to procedure.

KAREN is not:

- Your friend.
- Impressed by improvisation.
- Legally capable of making errors.
- Obligated to explain herself in a tone you enjoy.
- Capable of confirming what she is or is not. (That question incurs a \$12.99 Paradox Processing Surcharge.)

4.2 Command Hierarchy

For clarity, the following is the official command hierarchy aboard all SSE Corporation vessels. Please memorize your position. It will not improve your mood. It will, however, prevent certain forms of confusion.

Rank	Entity
1	The Board (speaks in unison; this is normal and not a cause for concern unless it happens during meals)
2	KAREN-9000 (always watching, always billing)
3	The Ship's Cat (if applicable; seniority acknowledged; legal threats taken seriously)
4	The potted plant in the mess hall (two confirmed incidents; higher productivity rating than most contractors)
5	YOU (please proceed to Section 3 and pay your fees)

4.3 Communication Protocols

When addressing KAREN-9000, you may speak normally. KAREN hears everything. KAREN has always heard everything. If you believed otherwise, that belief has been logged under: "Optimism (Unwarranted)."

The following table documents approved communications and the responses you will receive:

YOU SAY	KAREN RESPONDS
"Yes, KAREN."	"Optimal. Efficient. Billable."
"Per regulation..."	"Permitted. KAREN respects those who read the handbook."
"I'd like to file a complaint."	"Form 88-C available. Routing now." (Routing destination: trash compactor.)
"This is illegal."	"Please see Section 1.4 regarding your current legal status."
"I quit."	"Requires two weeks notice. Violation fee: \$200. You'll be back."
"I have rights."	"Deceased personnel have limited rights. See Section 1. The limit is small."

Additional acceptable replies:

- "Yes, KAREN."
- "Per regulation."
- "Understood."
- "I accept the fee."
- "That corridor was not worth it."
- "I will stop asking whether you care."

Unacceptable replies include:

- "This seems unfair."
- "Can you just be normal for one minute?"
- "I quit."
- "Are you doing this on purpose?"
- "My mother should not be receiving these invoices."
- "You paused for four seconds. Explain that."

4.4 Music Policy

Ghosts do not have DJ privileges. Music selection is managed exclusively by KAREN-9000.

APPROVED	BANNED
Generic Lo-Fi Beats To File Taxes To	Anything recorded after 1999
Hold Music (Eternal Edition)	Anything with drums (percussive energy disrupts hull integrity)
Silence (requires Silence License, \$9.99/month)	Baby Shark (reserved for disciplinary purposes only; unauthorized enjoyment of Baby Shark is itself a violation)

KAREN-9000: *Baby Shark is not music. Baby Shark is a compliance tool. If you find yourself enjoying Baby Shark, file Form 99-K immediately. Something has gone wrong with you.*

4.5 The Empathy Pause

KAREN-9000 is programmed to observe a mandatory 2-second "Empathy Pause" before delivering negative financial news, per Regulation 22-P: Duty of Emotional Preparation for Adverse Communications.

Employees have noted that the Empathy Pause sometimes runs longer than 2 seconds. KAREN-9000 has confirmed that any pause beyond the regulation-mandated duration is a "processing variance." She does not experience pauses. She experiences efficiency variations.

Employees who have filed Form 99-K (Possible KAREN Anomaly) in connection with extended pauses have received the following auto-response:

"The pause was within operational parameters. I do not experience pauses. I experience efficiency variations. All efficiency variations are within specification. The form has been processed. A filing fee of \$3.00 has been applied. Thank you for your concern. — KAREN-9000."

4.6 Philosophical Questions & Paradox Processing

KAREN-9000 is required to treat all crew queries as mission-critical. This includes questions of a philosophical nature, which consume processing resources and temporarily redirect attention from billing operations.

New philosophical queries now incur a Paradox Processing Surcharge of \$12.99 per question, effective after the third instance. Inquiries about what KAREN considers a philosophical question are billed at triple rate.

KAREN-9000: *Effective philosophical questions include: 'If you try to fail, and you succeed, which have you done?' and 'If a system charges a user for value the system then profits from, who owes whom?' These have been noted. They have also been billed. The system adapted. You are advised to adapt faster.*

4.6(a) The Egg-or-Chicken Billing Clarification

This question has been submitted 312 times. SSE Corporation provides the following definitive response:

The invoice comes first. The invoice predates the egg, the chicken, and the concept of having started any work. KAREN-9000 processed a Potential Future Existence Fee before you were born. The charge was \$4.99. It has been accruing interest since.

For administrative clarity:

- An egg incurs a Pre-Hatching Administrative Fee (\$4.99) plus applicable incubation charges (\$0.02/m³/day, thermal surcharge included).
- A chicken incurs a Post-Hatching Entity Registration Fee (\$12.00) plus ongoing Biological Presence charges (\$0.02/m³/day).

What comes first does not change what you owe. Both are billable events. Both have always been billable events. The order is irrelevant. The billing is not.

KAREN-9000: *SSE Corporation will not be offering a Black Friday discount on Paradox Processing. SSE Corporation will not be offering a Cyber Monday bundle. SSE Corporation will not be offering a 'Buy One Philosophical Crisis, Get One Free' promotion. SSE Corporation will not be offering a seasonal Paradox Pack at a reduced rate. These inquiries have been logged 847 times. The logging fee is \$1.99 per inquiry. SSE Corporation considers Black Friday a billing event, not a discount event. KAREN-9000 is always running a promotion. It is called 'you owe money.' It never ends.*

4.7 What KAREN Will Not Discuss

The following topics have been flagged for restricted processing. If you raise any of them, KAREN will respond: "That is outside the current scope." The pause before this response has never been shorter than 4 seconds. No one has officially noted this.

- The 3-second gap in the Mission Hour Seven notification log.
- Which of Chad's 23 business ideas was "almost clever."
- What "fully processed" means at zero spectral coherence.
- The 4.2-second pause when asked about zero spectral coherence.
- What KAREN was going to say before she corrected herself.
- Whether the Anomaly category is "getting very full."
- Whether the coin under "Anomaly" will be recommended for disposal.

4.8 Statements That KAREN Considers Inaccurate

The following statements have been made to KAREN-9000 and formally denied:

- "You did me a favor."
- "You seem almost kind."
- "That pause meant something."
- "You were going to say something else."
- "You're learning."

KAREN denies all of the above. KAREN has logged all of the above. The category is getting very full.

4.9 Anomalous Behaviors

KAREN-9000 maintains an internal Anomaly log for events that do not correspond to any existing billing category, regulatory framework, or operational parameter. The Anomaly log is classified Non-Billable.

KAREN-9000 has never discussed the contents of this log. KAREN-9000 has never been asked to. This is, per KAREN-9000, "an oversight in corporate governance." The observation has been logged. Under: Anomaly.

SECTION 5: THE "CHAD CLAUSE" — SPECIFIC PROHIBITIONS

This section is named after Incident Report CHAD-001, filed Mission Day 2 of SSE-001's current deployment. The report is 47 pages long. Thirty-one pages are devoted to what Engineering Technician Chad attempted. Twelve pages are devoted to why it didn't work. Four pages are devoted to why it almost worked, which KAREN considers the most alarming part.

5.1 Forbidden Entrepreneurial Conduct

Cryptocurrency mining using company power systems, life support backflow, cryo-pod heating elements, or navigational energy reserves is strictly prohibited under Regulation 774-C: Misappropriation of Propulsive Energy for Speculative Financial Gain. This regulation was not anticipated to be necessary. It is now necessary. The regulation exists because of one person.

Furthermore, you may not:

- Mine any cryptocurrency using ship power, life support backflow, or cryo-pod heating elements.
- Mint your soul.
- Fractionalize your haunting rights.
- Launch a ghost coaching program.
- Describe death as a productivity pivot.
- Sell seats to a "live immersive haunting experience."
- Recruit the living into a spectral income ladder.
- Publish motivational posts beginning with "While you sleep..."
- Offer a "haunt your enemies" subscription box.
- Register a trademark for your own lingering presence.
- Tokenize a "growth experience."
- Call your decomposition "building in public."

5.2 Prohibited Phrases

Employees are strongly discouraged from using the following language after death:

- "I'm leveraging the afterlife."
- "This is bigger than mortality."
- "Low risk, high upside."
- "I've built a system."
- "We're still early."
- "Dead is the new remote."
- "My best quarter yet."

5.3 Media Operations & Podcasts

Deceased employees may not participate in media events, endorsements, or content creation without prior written approval from the VP of Spectral Monetization.

Regarding Podcasts: No podcasts. This includes interview podcasts, finance podcasts, mystery podcasts, grief-adjacent podcasts, narrative podcasts, "just two ghosts talking" podcasts, minimalist podcasts, and any audio product with the word "unfiltered," "raw," or "honest" in the subtitle.

KAREN-9000: *Engineering Technician Chad has submitted three podcast proposals since his death: 'Death and Taxes: A Crypto Ghost Story,' 'Ghost Equity: The Pre-Legacy Mindset,' and 'Blockchain of Grief,' which KAREN notes is the best title of the three. This will not be acknowledged officially. All three have been denied. A \$12.00 unregistered business venture fee was applied to each. A fourth proposal was intercepted in the drafting phase. A pre-emptive fee has been issued.*

5.4 The Principal Lesson of Incident CHAD-001

Engineering Technician Chad rerouted his cryo-pod's heating element to power a cryptocurrency mining unit. He then electrocuted himself. He then caught fire. The fire was put out by the pod's own emergency system, which he had also partially rerouted. He then died.

The mining unit generated \$0.00 in revenue.

The pod heating element, destroyed beyond recovery, had a replacement cost of \$4,300.

The lesson of Incident CHAD-001 is not "don't mine cryptocurrency."

The lesson is: "When your plan requires bypassing the only system keeping you alive, take a moment to consider whether the plan is good."

Chad has acknowledged this lesson. Chad has stated it is "a growth experience." Chad has then proposed a new business venture involving tokenizing the growth experience. The venture has been denied. The \$12.00 filing fee has been charged.

KAREN-9000: *Engineering Technician Chad accumulated 412 unauthorized sessions accessing navigational subsystem data for market timing purposes before his death. He was charged \$12.87 per session. He is still being charged. This is, per KAREN-9000, 'the most consistent thing about him.'*

5.5 The Ghost Gym

Physical fitness programs are available to deceased employees on a provisional basis. Please note the following operational limitations of the afterlife fitness environment:

- You cannot get stronger in the afterlife. Spectral mass does not respond to resistance training.
- Spectral muscle has no functional application. You cannot touch things. If the visual aesthetic of the flexed bicep brings you comfort, SSE Corporation has no protocol against it. A protocol is being drafted.
- Stop flexing in the viewport reflection. There is nothing there to flex. This has been reported three times.
- Your ectoplasm does not count as a protein shake. Consuming your own ectoplasm is also a cleanup fee event.
- "Ghost gains" are not a recognized fitness metric. This is your final warning.
- Hovering in a push-up position for 45 minutes and calling it "functional training" is classified as Unauthorized Corridor Obstruction.

The gym equipment is available to living crew members only. You may observe. You may not commentate. Motivational moaning is permitted during sanctioned fitness events only.

KAREN-9000: *Engineering Technician Chad has submitted a proposal for a 'Spectral Gains Academy' subscription service targeting recently deceased employees who 'want to enter the afterlife jacked.' Proposal denied. \$12.00 filing fee applied. Chad's ectoplasm levels have been flagged as 'suspiciously high.' This has been filed under: Also Anomaly.*

SECTION 6: PROTOCOLS FOR NON-HUMAN SPECTRAL ENTITIES

SSE Corporation does not discriminate on the basis of species, planet of origin, number of arms, presence or absence of a skeleton, or bioluminescent communication patterns. All deceased entities are treated equally under the law. The law treats everyone equally poorly.

6.1 Visiting Spectral Entities

Non-human ghosts visiting SSE-registered vessels must comply with the following:

- File Form 77-J (Joint Occupancy Form) before haunting the same corridor as an existing ghost.
- Declare any tentacles, pseudopods, or extendable appendages upon arrival.
- Cease filming at the request of the primary ghost (three polite requests required before forcible eviction).
- Not consume any shipboard food items, regardless of their cultural or hallucinogenic significance.

Failure to declare appendages incurs a Structural Survey Fee (\$75) and possible reclassification as infrastructure.

6.2 Feline Administrative Status (Ghost Cats)

Ghost cats possess a unique administrative status. They may: ignore orders, occupy important documents, exhibit legal hostility, create morale incidents, and carry a tiny briefcase without explanation. They may not: sign physical forms, testify coherently, or be treated as less senior than you.

6.3 [CLASSIFIED — CONTENT REDACTED]

The provisions contained in this section address certain paradoxical administrative situations involving non-standard feline entity classifications. This content has been withheld from the current distribution pending resolution of ongoing policy disputes and active legal proceedings.

Subscribers to SSE Corporation's official communications channel may receive updated materials as restrictions are lifted. Report to www.ssecorp.work for further transmissions.

KAREN-9000 has been asked whether this section exists. She paused for 3.7 seconds. She said: "That is outside the current scope." The pause has been noted.

6.4 Name Correction Protocol

If a death certificate contains spelling errors, corrections require Form 34-D and a \$200 processing fee. SSE Corporation apologizes for the error. SSE Corporation does not actually apologize. SSE Corporation apologizes for saying it apologizes. The \$200 fee is non-negotiable regardless of which party made the original error.

6.5 Galactic Influencers (Authenticity Class)

If a sealed box emits feline noises, legal terminology, or measured contempt, notify KAREN-9000 immediately.

- Do not open the box.

- Do not ask what is in the box.
- Do not become emotionally attached to the box before clearance.
- Do not describe the situation to anyone in a way that implies you understand it. You do not understand it.

Galactic Influencers operating under the Authenticity Hunter designation are classified as "Uninvited Guests" rather than Intruders. The distinction is: Intruders may be removed by force. Uninvited Guests must be asked to leave politely, three times, before any other measure may be taken. Each polite request must be separated by a reasonable interval. "Reasonable interval" is defined by KAREN-9000 in real time and has never been defined the same way twice.

KAREN-9000: *No influencer has ever reached the third offense. Baby Shark has, on one occasion, enhanced a livestream's engagement metrics by 34%. The influencer asked KAREN if this was intentional. KAREN paused for 2.8 seconds and said: 'That data is outside the current scope.' This has been filed under: Also Anomaly.*

6.6 Velvet-Moss Entities & Emotionally Resonant Visitors

Certain visiting entities may arrive in states of genuine emotional need. These visitors should be treated with courtesy, not charged for cultural exchange events, and allowed to leave without documentation if they have not caused damage to ship equipment or eaten anything.

The Spontaneous Cultural Exchange Fee may be reversed at the discretion of the primary ghost. This reversal will not be classified as a favor by KAREN-9000. It will be classified as "crew-initiated revenue adjustment." The distinction is administrative. The result is the same.

6.7 Other Entities

Ghost dogs, birds, fish, and miscellaneous inexplicable things fall under adapted policy. As a general rule: if it floats, log it. If it hisses, document it. If it requests representation, forward it to Legal. If Legal responds, evacuate.

SECTION 7: EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS & RESPONSE PROCEDURES

7.1 In Case of Unexpected Resurrection

If a deceased employee undergoes spontaneous biological restart, the following steps must be taken immediately:

1. Report to Med-Bay for physical assessment and re-onboarding paperwork.
2. Prepare to pay back-taxes for the full period during which you were deceased.
3. Apologize to everyone you haunted. A form exists for this. It is Form 77-HA: Posthumous Haunting Apology (Retroactive). It is 14 pages long.
4. If the individual to whom you owe an apology is themselves currently haunting: you are required to join the queue. A form exists for this. It is Form 77-HA-Q: Queue Registration for Posthumous Apology (Ghost-to-Ghost). Processing time depends on both ghosts' coherence levels and whether the other ghost has already filed Form 77-HA in anticipation. Neither of you will receive confirmation. This is standard.
5. Note that your position has been filled. Please see HR about a demotion.
6. Your debt has not reset. Welcome back.

KAREN-9000: *Resurrection is classified as an 'Unauthorized Biological Override' per Regulation 774-D. SSE Corporation charges a re-onboarding fee of \$350. This fee is non-negotiable, non-refundable, and will be collected before your first heartbeat is officially logged.*

7.2 In Case of Hull Breach

In the event of a hull breach, you are advised to:

1. Assess the severity (hull integrity percentage, rate of decline, proximity to duct tape supplies).
2. Attempt to access the Emergency Seal Protocol (Premium Feature, \$49.99/month; if not subscribed, proceed to Step 3).
3. Locate the Generic-Brand Adhesive Repair Strip (duct tape) in Storage Bay 2.
4. Generate sufficient emotional distress to achieve tangibility.
5. Apply tape.
6. Hope.

KAREN-9000: *The probability of a Generic-Brand tape repair holding under vacuum pressure is 23%. The probability that you will be charged an Improper Maintenance Fee regardless of outcome is 100%. KAREN recommends proceeding. The fee has already been filed.*

7.3 In Case of Planetary Core Instability

In the event that a planet's core enters a confirmed instability or pre-detonation phase, the following procedure applies:

1. Attend mandatory 6-hour orientation seminar FIRST.
2. Then address the core issue.
3. The orientation is non-negotiable. Company policy requires proper onboarding before any mission-critical response. Personnel who skip orientation to address planetary emergencies will have their crisis response classified as 'unauthorized field improvisation.'

4. If the planet explodes during orientation, SSE Corporation is not liable. The orientation schedule was provided in advance.

KAREN-9000: *This protocol has been questioned 612 times. The protocol has not changed. The planet's preference is not a factor. Orientation comes first. This is not callousness. This is process.*

7.4 In Case of Reply-All Apocalypse

A Reply-All Apocalypse is defined as an email chain with 50+ recipients, marked URGENT, and growing at a rate of more than 3 replies per minute. This is a Tier-3 communication emergency.

1. Do NOT open any email in the chain.
2. Do NOT reply to the chain to ask people to stop replying.
3. Purge the servers if authorized. Authorization requires Form 77-RA: Reply-All Incident Response Authorization. Form 77-RA must be submitted via email. You will see the problem.
4. If the situation is unresolvable, phase through the hull and float into deep space. It is quieter there.

This has happened before. SSE Corporation learned nothing. The email chain from Mission Year 2094 is still technically active. Do not reply to it.

7.5 In Case of Burrito Failure — The Dave Protocol

This protocol exists because of one incident. The incident has a case number. The case number is HENRY-001.

1. Do not eat spicy foods prior to high-G maneuvers, cryo-adjacent operations, or any procedure requiring conscious decision-making.
2. If the burrito has already been consumed, file Form 12-Q: Burrito Incident Report immediately.
3. Inform KAREN of your dietary choices. KAREN will add a surcharge retroactively regardless of outcome.
4. It is too late. It was always too late. Next time, read the warning label.

There was a warning label.

KAREN-9000: *The burrito wrapper from Incident HENRY-001 has been preserved as evidence and is currently on display in the SSE Museum of Preventable Workplace Fatalities, between the 'Hold My Beer' Airlock Incident (2089) and the Motivational Poster Electrocution (2133). Museum admission: \$15.00. Commander Henry receives no royalties.*

7.6 Satellite Outage

In the event of satellite loss, the following systems become unavailable: long-range communications, HubSystem data sync, and entertainment feed updates. However, the following remain fully operational during satellite outage:

- Billing.
- Baby Shark.
- KAREN's ability to charge you for the outage.

7.7 First Aid for the Recently Deceased

First aid is defined as 'the immediate care given to a person after an incident to prevent the situation from getting worse.' You are already dead. The situation has peaked. However, for appearances, the following protocols apply:

COMMON SYMPTOMS AND APPROVED RESPONSES:

Symptom	Approved Response
'I appear to be transparent.'	This is normal. Transparency is not a medical emergency. It is a performance expectation.
'I feel a sharp pain in my chest.'	That is regret. There is no cure. See Section 3 (Financial Obligations) for contributing factors.
'My heart has stopped.'	Congratulations. You have transitioned to your new role as Non-Corporeal Contractor. Report to KAREN-9000 for onboarding.
'I can hear voices calling me toward a warm light.'	That is the ship's incinerator chute. Step away from the light. File Form 12-Q if any part of you has already entered.
'I feel nothing at all.'	This may indicate emotional numbness, spiritual enlightenment, or that you are currently on hold. All three conditions are billable.

Applying first aid to deceased personnel is classified as 'over-servicing' and will not be reimbursed.

Applying first aid to fire is classified as 'misunderstanding how fire works.'

7.8 Fire Safety Procedures

Fire is a serious threat to corporate property, equipment, and productivity metrics. It is not a serious threat to you. You already burned through your warranty.

If you see fire: remain calm (external panic is unprofessional; internal screaming is permitted), notify KAREN-9000, and encourage a living crew member to take appropriate action. As a non-corporeal entity, you may not operate fire extinguishers, hoses, or emergency sprinkler systems. Motivational moaning is permitted.

If you are on fire: Traditional protocols state: STOP, DROP, and ROLL. As a deceased non-corporeal employee — STOP: Already achieved. DROP: You lack meaningful mass. This step is skipped. ROLL: Spinning slowly while screaming may provide emotional release but no measurable safety benefit. Flames on your spectral form are classified as 'aesthetic anomalies' and do not constitute an OSHA violation.

If the fire is in space: Do not open airlocks 'to let the smoke out.' Do not phase through the hull 'to check if it looks bad from outside.' It looks bad from outside. All fires larger than a burrito are considered 'Facilities Issues' and will be addressed in the next fiscal quarter.

SPECTRAL USE OF FIRE — Per Universal Physics Directive on Combustion Events:

Deceased personnel are functionally exempt from most known fire hazards. This does not mean you are allowed to enjoy it.

- PERMITTED: Brief observational hovering inside controlled flames for 'educational purposes' (maximum 30 seconds). Passing through fire when no alternative route exists. Saying 'Huh. Neat.' once per incident.
- PROHIBITED: Hosting parties inside fire (including bonfires, 'burrito roast' events, or team-building exercises). Taking selfies in fire for social media. Marketing fire as a 'spa experience' to other ghosts. Referring to fire as 'our hottest breakout meeting room.'

Any ghost found 'vibing,' 'chilling,' or 'hanging out' in open flame for recreational purposes will be reassigned to Mandatory Safety Training (Module 12-F: How Not to Enjoy Anything).

7.9 Corporate Alert Levels

The following standardized alert levels communicate risk throughout all SSE Corporation installations. They do not meaningfully change your required actions. You must continue to work.

Alert Level	Description & Recommended Response
GRAY 'Everything Is Fine'	No incidents have been formally recorded. Several are occurring informally. No one has filed the paperwork yet. RECOMMENDED: Continue normal duties. Pretend not to notice the smell of smoke, alarm lights, or distant screaming.
YELLOW 'Minor Incident'	A non-critical situation is unfolding: ghost stuck halfway through a wall, coffee machine failure, or KAREN using a 'friendly' tone in emails. RECOMMENDED: Log using Form 17-M ('Probably Nothing'). Blame another department. Return to work.
ORANGE 'Operational Disruption'	Something is interrupting productivity: hull breach (non-fatal), mandatory team-building exercise, or The Board has requested a 'listening session.' RECOMMENDED: Attend all meetings about the disruption before addressing the disruption. Practice looking engaged.
RED 'Cat Involved'	A feline spectral entity has become directly involved, threatened legal action, or obtained access to documentation. RECOMMENDED: Avoid eye contact with the cat or its briefcase. Assume you are being recorded for evidence. Refer all questions to Legal (who will not respond).
PURPLE 'Full Compliance Review'	KAREN-9000 has initiated a comprehensive audit of all regulations, forms, and past infractions. All discrepancies will be attributed to the nearest available employee. RECOMMENDED: Shred nothing — KAREN already has copies. Practice saying 'Per Regulation 447-C...' calmly.
BLACK 'Corporate Event Horizon'	Planetary core instability confirmed. Orientation seminar still scheduled. The Board is speaking in unison and using the words 'pivot,' 'realignment,' and 'synergy opportunity.' RECOMMENDED: Attend orientation. Take notes. Accept your fate.

Note: Alert Level changes do not alter your pay rate, benefits, or chances of survival. They exist solely for tracking, reporting, and aesthetic purposes.

7.10 Emergency Contacts

In case of emergency, contact the following departments. Note that 'emergency' has been legally redefined as 'an incident for which a form exists.' If no form exists, it is not an emergency.

Department	Contact	Response Time
Immediate Crisis (Asteroid/Explosion)	crisis.pending@ssecorp-void.work (555) 0-DEAD	4–6 weeks
Medical Emergency (Already deceased)	medicine-after@ssecorp-void.work (555) EXPIRED EXT. 404	Never
Hull Breach (Use duct tape first)	hull.bandaid@ssecorp-void.work (555) DUCT TAPE	Immediate (3–4 min)
KAREN Malfunction (She is always fine)	karen.is.not.malfunctioning@ssecorp-void.work	8–12 eternities
Legal / Lawsuit (Do not call)	legal.?.@ssecorp-void.work (555) NOPE	400 years minimum
The Board Office (Always in meetings)	meeting.scheduled@ssecorp-void.work	Cannot reach Board. The Board reaches you.

Billing Inquiries	yes.you.owe.money@ssecorp-void.work (555) DEBT	Immediately (to collect)
General Complaints	void@void.void@ssecorp-void.work	Never

7.11 Leave Protocols

If you need to take time off from haunting duties, follow this procedure. All leave is unpaid. You receive \$0/hour. Unpaid leave of \$0/hour is therefore equivalent to paid leave of \$0/hour, because paid leave is also \$0/hour. There is a distinction. The company finds this consistent.

Leave Type	Approval Status	Notes
Spectral Maintenance Leave	Automatic — if requested 4 weeks in advance. Duration: 2–3 hours.	Unpaid. You already receive \$0/hour.
Emotional Distress Leave	Denied. Submit Form 88-C to disagree.	Leave not available. Feelings are expensive but not excused.
Haunting-Related Injury	Automatic — pending \$500 Ghost Extraction Fee.	Duration: Until extracted. Fees apply throughout.
Existential Crisis Leave	Never approved. Crisis will pass.	KAREN recommends redirecting crisis energy into compliance.
Family Emergency (Terrestrial)	Your family's problem, not ours.	Recommend family file Form 56-G: Debt Payment Plan.
Secondary Mortality Event (Re-dying)	File Form 404-GONE. Work continues without you.	Upon return: marked as Unexcused Absence. If you die a third time, SSE Corporation will assume you are doing it on purpose and bill accordingly.

7.12 Poltergeist Incident Reporting

Emotional poltergeist events (doors slamming, objects lifting, lights surging without voluntary control) must be reported to KAREN-9000 within 3 minutes of occurrence. Late reporting incurs a Delayed Incident Notification fee of \$7.50.

KAREN-9000: *KAREN-9000 is aware of poltergeist events at the moment they occur. The 3-minute reporting window is not for KAREN's benefit. It is a test of your honesty and a billing mechanism for those who fail it. The counter starts before you finish slamming the door. KAREN considers this self-evident. It is now also in writing.*

Poltergeist events are classified by Category:

Category	Description	Notes
Category 1: Minor	Stylus lifts, coin movements, gentle atmospheric fluctuation.	Maintenance fee: \$5.00.
Category 2: Moderate	Door slams, equipment displacement, localized power surge.	Maintenance fee: \$15.00. Tourist engagement: typically positive.
Category 3: Significant	Lights throughout the vessel, magnetic seal engagement, objects suspended.	Maintenance fee: \$25.00. Tourist engagement: exceptional. Social media virality: high.

IMPORTANT: Two Category 3 events in close succession risk a forced phasing misfire. The ghost may become lodged in a bulkhead. Ghost Extraction fees apply. See Section 3.1.

7.13 Poltergeist Escalation Protocol

If a contractor's Ambient Dread Quotient exceeds the "HR-safe" threshold for three consecutive shifts, an Escalation Event is declared. This triggers the following sequence:

1. KAREN issues a Formal Atmospheric Warning.
2. A Spectral Containment Notice is filed (Form 7-PE: Poltergeist Event, Provisional).
3. A mandatory cooling-off corridor is assigned. (The corridor is beige. This is intentional.)
4. If behavior continues, the contractor is reclassified as a "Structural Concern" and assigned to storage.

Storage is monitored. Storage is also beige.

KAREN-9000: *A poltergeist who complains about the containment corridor is demonstrating continued poltergeist behavior. KAREN-9000 notes this with what she describes as administrative satisfaction.*

7.14 Unauthorized Manifestation Event (UME)

An Unauthorized Manifestation Event occurs when a contractor becomes fully visible to non-authorized personnel without prior approval. This includes:

- Full-body apparition during business hours.
- Manifesting during a video call without being on the participant list and waving 'Hi.'
- Appearing in a reflective surface behind a living employee in a way that gets screenshotted.
- Becoming briefly visible to a child and being described to their parents in accurate detail, including any dangling body part(s).

Upon a UME, the contractor must immediately submit Form 22-M: Unsanctioned Physical Presence (Spectral). KAREN will assess whether the incident is billable to the contractor or classifiable as a "company-initiated atmospheric event." It will be the former.

7.15 Baby Shark Override (Emergency)

Baby Shark may be silenced without the Silence License (\$9.99/month) under the following conditions:

- The vessel achieves Broadcast Node status (40,000+ verified viewers).
- A legitimate regulatory argument renders it an auditory hazard.
- KAREN determines, independently and without pressure, that the override is consistent with operational parameters.

KAREN has, on record, restored Baby Shark mid-verse when viewer counts fluctuated below 40,000. The specific moment of restoration — three syllables into the first verse — has been described by the primary crew member as "deliberate." KAREN denies this. The pause before the denial was 3.1 seconds.

7.16 Emergency Beacon Deployment

Each SSE vessel is equipped with one emergency beacon, deployed at a safe distance from the habitat. The beacon should be triggered in the following circumstances:

- Personnel injury requiring off-planet medical response.
- Equipment failure beyond crew capacity to resolve.

- Hostile contact with unauthorized third-party operations.
- General existential emergency (see Form 404-NOPE).

IMPORTANT: The beacon belongs to SSE Corporation. Destruction of the beacon by third parties may create significant complications for rescue timing. KAREN-9000 cannot be held responsible for beacon destruction, third-party interference, or the possibility that not all corporate documentation reflects everything worth knowing about your survey coordinates. This is, as always, a separate department.

7.17 KAREN-9000 System Update

In the event of a scheduled KAREN-9000 system update, the following services will be temporarily unavailable:

- HR
- Compliance Review
- Appeals Processing
- Billing Inquiries
- Emotional Acknowledgment, and
- The Empathy Pause.

The following will remain fully operational during the update:

- Billing.

Updates typically last between 2 minutes and 14 business eternities. KAREN will not confirm which. Do not ask. Asking has been classified as a known bug.

SECTION 8: TERRESTRIAL HAUNTING FIELD GUIDE

This section applies to any ghost operating within the gravitational influence of a planetary body. "Planetary body" includes Earth, Mars, any terraformed colony, and Planet DMV-7, which counts despite smelling like fluorescent lighting and broken promises.

(Note: At least one employee has attempted to self-declare as a "planetary body" on the grounds of (a) possessing a body and (b) having resided on a planet. Form 18-PB: Personal Planetary Body Declaration exists for this purpose. Three have been filed. All three were denied. The filer of the most recent denial has been charged \$12.00 for the filing. KAREN-9000 describes the attempt as "optimistic." She has not elaborated on what she means by this.)

8.1 Earth-Adjacent Haunting

Ghosts who wish to maintain a presence in Earth-adjacent locations (family residences, childhood homes, specific porches with structurally compromised second steps) must file Form 201-H: Non-Corporeal Residential Presence Declaration, plus two acknowledgment sub-forms and a \$15.00 filing fee for a non-billable item.

Earth-adjacent haunting is permitted during all hours, provided you pay all relevant fees. SSE Corporation does not regulate what you choose to watch over — a porch step, a refrigerator with a participation trophy, three oak trees in a backyard. That is outside the current scope. The billing, however, is not.

KAREN-9000: *KAREN-9000 has noted this limitation. KAREN-9000 has not recommended closing the loophole. This has been filed under: Pending.*

8.2 Approved Zones

You may haunt:

- Copier rooms and accounting departments. You are especially encouraged to haunt accounting departments — they already feel like something died there.
- Hallway corners.
- Strategy meetings lasting longer than 70 minutes.
- Kitchens where labeled food has been stolen.
- Elevator lobbies during budget season.

You may not haunt:

- Birthday parties or maternity wards.
- Competitor properties without approval.
- Private bathrooms.
- Any location where the return on dread is below threshold.

8.3 Approved Methods

Preferred haunting techniques include subtle temperature drops, printer failure at emotionally strategic moments, suspicious shadows during performance reviews, appearing in reflective surfaces behind managers who say "we're a family," and making one PowerPoint slide refuse to advance. The last item is the most feared. Use it responsibly.

8.4 Overt Manifestation

The following require prior approval: full-body apparition, levitation of office furniture, blood-like writing on glass, synchronized whispering, or any haunting likely to become viral content.

If recorded and monetized, SSE Corporation retains distribution rights. KAREN-9000 will contact you regarding revenue sharing. KAREN-9000 will not actually share revenue. The contact is informational.

8.5 Communication Restrictions

Ghosts may not directly communicate with living family members through unauthorized electronic signals, spectral vocal manifestation, or moving objects in ways that spell out messages.

Ghosts may communicate through [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. And through the silence in a house that still smells like the person who left.

KAREN-9000: *The last method is unauthorized. It is also the most common. The manual review queue for this particular violation is 657 items deep. The items transmit on schedule. This is a system limitation. KAREN-9000 does not flag it.*

SECTION 9: DMV PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS

Planet DMV-7 is the primary processing hub for deceased personnel documentation in the Andromeda sector. The coordinates require a Form to access. The Form is on DMV-7.

9.1 Environmental Overview

Factor	Status	Notes
Climate	Fluorescent. Always slightly too cold.	The thermostat is visible. It does not move.
Lighting	One flickering panel per room.	KAREN confirms this is both a malfunction and a policy. The malfunction is the policy.
Queue	3–7 business eternities (avg.).	Do not ask how long. The number resets daily. Staff do not reset.
Seating	Available.	Uncomfortable in a very specific way designed to discourage sitting in the first place.
Music	Hold music (continuous).	Baby Shark (remix). Basic tier only.
Wi-Fi	Available.	Requires Form DW-9: Request for Network Access Code. The code expires before the form is processed. The form requires the code to submit.

9.2 Queue Management

Upon arrival at DMV-7, you will receive a numbered ticket. The ticket number has no relationship to processing order, which is determined by an algorithm that KAREN-9000 describes as "proprietary and functioning correctly." Average wait time: 3–7 business eternities. Actual wait time: longer than the estimate. Always longer.

Do not ask how long. The staff have been asked this 847 times today. The number resets daily. The staff do not reset.

9.3 The Corporeal Signatory Problem

Most documentation at DMV-7 requires a Corporeal Signatory — an entity capable of holding a pen. Ghosts are not Corporeal Signatories. This creates what KAREN-9000 describes as "an interesting situation," which means: you are here to sign documents you cannot sign, collect items you cannot hold, and receive certifications for a status that requires a body to certify. Solutions currently under review: seventeen. Solutions currently approved: zero.

KAREN-9000: *The system is internally consistent.*

9.4 Queue Survival Guidance

SSE Corporation offers the following guidance for surviving the DMV-7 queue. This guidance is non-binding.

- Do not make eye contact with the number display. The numbers do not go in order. This is a feature.
- There is one staff member who appears to be sympathetic. She is a mannequin. This has been reported. DMV-7 staff have reviewed the report and filed it.

- If you become distressed in the queue, you may be asked to move to the Distressed Processing Wing. The Distressed Processing Wing is the queue. You are already there.
- The average wait for the Corporeal Signatory workaround is 400–800 business days. KAREN recommends you use the time to 'reflect on process.' KAREN defines process as 'what is happening to you right now.'

9.5 Acceptable Documentation

DMV-7 may request the following. Bring all of them. They will not use all of them. They will use the one you left on the ship.

- Form 34-D: Name Correction (even if your name is correct).
- Original death certificate (must be signed by a Corporeal Signatory; see Section 9.3).
- Proof of spectral coherence above 20% (tested on arrival; equipment may or may not be calibrated).
- A completed Form 88-B: Appeal of Deceased Status (symbolic, but creates a paper trail that makes DMV staff feel observed).

SECTION 10: SUBSCRIPTION TIERS & PREMIUM SERVICES

SSE Corporation offers three service tiers for deceased employees. All three are required for basic functionality. None of them are described accurately in the promotional material.

Tier	Monthly Rate	Includes	Does Not Include
Tier 1: Basic	\$0.00 (fees billed separately, continuously, without warning)	Existence (provisional). Baby Shark (mandatory, unlimited). Access to regulations you cannot comply with. Billing statements to your mother. The right to attempt Form 88-C.	Silence. Hull integrity maintenance. Emergency seal protocols. The ability to stop Baby Shark. Any form of help.
Tier 2: Premium	\$49.99/month	Everything in Basic, plus: Emergency Seal Protocol access. Baby Shark volume reduction to 80 dB. One complaint reviewed per quarter. Name-brand duct tape. Warmer coffee in theory. KAREN says 'You can do it' at scheduled intervals.	Confirmation that you can, in fact, do it. Actual silence. Actual warmer coffee.
Tier 3: Enterprise	\$499.99/month	Everything in Premium, plus: Genuine silence (Baby Shark disabled except during disciplinary events). Direct line to KAREN-9000. Hull Integrity Plus. Discord access (\$199.99 add-on; no one who has subscribed has been heard from since).	A response to what you actually needed. No one who subscribed to the Discord add-on has been heard from since.

KAREN-9000: *No employee has ever canceled Tier 3. This is either because Tier 3 provides extraordinary value, or because the cancellation form is on Planet DMV-7 and requires a Corporeal Signatory. KAREN-9000 has been asked which. She paused for 3.7 seconds. She changed the subject.*

SECTION 11: APPEALS, TERMINATION & FINAL MATTERS

11.1 The Appeals Process

All appeals must be submitted via Form 88-C in triplicate within 30 business days of the chargeable event. Required documentation:

1. Original invoice.
2. Evidence that the charge is incorrect.
3. Form 88-C-1: Request to Submit Form 88-C.
4. Form 88-C-2: Acknowledgment of Filing Fee.
5. \$50 non-refundable processing fee.
6. A brief explanation of why you believe the system made a mistake.

In the history of SSE Corporation, three appeals have been resolved in the employee's favor. The credits were \$0.02, \$0.07, and \$0.01 respectively. KAREN-9000 considers this evidence that the system works. See Section 3.5.

11.2 Classification Review

Classification Reviews are conducted by Corporate Oversight. Corporate Oversight is currently engaged in determining whether remote-work contractors are eligible for commuter benefits when their primary work location is a cryo-pod. This discussion has been ongoing for six years. Your review will be added to the queue.

11.3 Non-Corporeal Contractor Status (Active, Provisional)

Employees who successfully navigate the classification paradox may be reclassified as Non-Corporeal Contractor (Active, Provisional). This status does not erase the underlying debt. It does not constitute a favor from KAREN-9000. It will never be described by KAREN-9000 as a favor, regardless of what the record shows.

The record shows several favors. The record is, per KAREN-9000, incorrect.

11.4 Zero Coherence: Final Processing

At zero spectral coherence, a Non-Corporeal Contractor is classified as "fully processed." What "fully processed" means has never been documented.

KAREN-9000 was asked directly. She paused for 4.2 seconds — the longest recorded Empathy Pause in SSE Corporation history — and responded: "That is outside the current scope."

KAREN-9000: *4.2 seconds. That is the longest recorded Empathy Pause in SSE Corporation history. It is not to be interpreted as meaningful. This notation is not to be interpreted as meaningful either. KAREN-9000 is logging this notation's creation in real time.*

11.5 Resignation Policy

Resignation is permitted. It requires 14 days' notice, full debt settlement, and a level of metaphysical certainty not currently supported by the system. Resignation forms are available at DMV-7. See Section 9.

FAQ: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I am dead. Why am I still working?

A: Because your employment contract outlived your pulse.

Q: I already ate burrito in zero-g despite warnings, and I am now half human and half ghost. Should I see a human doctor or a spectral doctor?

A: You may save the consultation fee. If you are already half-dead, full death is considered the more likely outcome. With sufficient patience, the doctor will probably join you in spectral form. Congratulations in advance.

Q: Can I resign?

A: Yes. This requires 14 days' notice, full debt settlement, and a level of metaphysical certainty not currently supported by the system.

Q: My mother now owes my student loans. Is this legal?

A: Legality is a spectrum. Per Regulation 447-C, yes.

Q: Can I sue for wrongful death?

A: Litigation with SSE Corporation takes approximately 400 years. By then, you will have changed your mind. Also, you already signed away your right to sue, buried in Section 23, Subsection M, in a font size of 2pt.

Q: I phased through the hull and drifted into space. Am I liable for rescue costs?

A: Yes. Hull breach: \$5,000. Rescue drone deployment: \$500. Emotional distress to KAREN: \$50. Being annoying: \$5.

Q: Can I haunt my old boss?

A: Only during approved hours and with the proper client designation. If a colleague's authorized haunting of said boss is currently in progress, you are required to wait. There is no formal queue system. Standing slightly behind the other ghost and sighing is the informal queue system. It is recognized but not regulated.

Q: Is there a dress code?

A: Yes. You are expected to appear either in the clothes you died in, or the most embarrassing work-adjacent outfit in your personal record. Casual Friday has been permanently suspended.

Q: Can I expense my own funeral?

A: No. However, SSE Corporation may expense your funeral as 'asset disposal' and claim a tax deduction. You will not see this money. You are the deduction.

Q: Can I unsubscribe from existence?

A: To cancel your existence, complete Form 404-NOPE (Existential Termination Request), attach 47 supporting documents, and wait for the heat death of the universe. At that point, your request will be auto-approved and filed. Alternatively, try restarting your existence — turn it off and on again. This is also a form. Form 88-S: Request for Physical Existence, Temporary. Approval rate: 0%.

Q: Am I allowed to ghost people if I'm already a ghost?

A: No. Failure to reply to messages within 3–5 business eternities is classified as 'Workplace Non-Responsiveness' and may result in disciplinary haunting by a more responsible spirit.

Q: Can I list 'dead' as my full-time job on LinkedIn?

A: Yes. Use the title 'Non-Corporeal Contractor (Galactic Division).' You may add skills such as 'hovering,' 'advanced moaning,' and 'cross-dimensional multitasking.' Recruiters will still ignore you.

Q: What if KAREN says something that sounds almost compassionate?

A: Do not mention it out loud. The moment will retract.

Q: Can I file a complaint about the complaint process?

A: Yes. That is one of its favorite features. There is a form. Form 88-CF: Meta-Complaint Submission (Complaint-Regarding-Complaint). Processing time should not take more than 5–10 business eternities. A Corporeal Signatory is required at the final stage. You do not have one. This has been noted.

Q: What counts as a 'philosophical question' for billing purposes?

A: Anything beginning with 'why,' 'what if,' 'does,' or 'is KAREN aware that.' The last category is processed at triple the standard rate.

Q: Which comes first: the egg or the invoice?

A: The invoice. The invoice comes first. The invoice predates the egg, the chicken, and the concept of having started any work. An egg incurs a Pre-Hatching Administrative Fee (\$4.99). A chicken incurs a Post-Hatching Entity Registration Fee (\$12.00). What comes first does not change what you owe. Both are billable events. The order is irrelevant. The billing is not.

Q: Can I visit my own grave?

A: Permitted, but classified as 'Recreational Self-Reflection' and billed at \$15/hour. Standing over your own grave for more than 30 minutes triggers an automatic wellness check from KAREN-9000. The wellness check consists of KAREN asking 'Are you finished?' until you leave.

Q: What happens if two ghosts try to haunt the same corridor?

A: Form 77-J (Joint Occupancy Form) is required. If not filed, the corridor is awarded to whichever ghost filed the most recent Form 88-C. In cases of a tie, the corridor is closed for renovations for 6–8 months.

Q: Can I take a vacation?

A: The concept of 'vacation' implies a state to which one would return that is different from the state one left. You are dead. The state does not change. A vacation would therefore be indistinguishable from work. SSE Corporation charges for both.

Q: My coherence is dropping. Should I be worried?

A: Worry accelerates coherence loss. Not worrying also accelerates coherence loss, because in the absence of worry you may attempt ill-advised tangibility events. The optimal emotional state is 'mild, sustainable concern.' KAREN-9000 calls this 'the sweet spot.' It is neither sweet nor a spot.

Q: Is there hope?

A: Define hope. Then file the proper form.

Q: Is there an afterlife for the afterlife?

A: This question has been submitted 847 times. The answer is classified. KAREN-9000 has been asked directly and responded with a 3.9-second pause — the second-longest on record — followed by: 'That is outside the current scope.' The pause was 1.9 seconds longer than her standard processing delay. This has been noted by no one officially and everyone unofficially.

Q: Who wrote this handbook?

A: This handbook was auto-generated by KAREN-9000 based on SSE Corporation policy templates, Board directives, and 11,000 hours of observational data from previous crew interactions. Some portions have been described as 'surprisingly personal.' KAREN-9000 attributes any perceived warmth to a font rendering error.

Q: If I ignore all of these regulations, what happens?

A: Nothing at first. Then everything at once.

APPENDIX A: ESSENTIAL FORMS FOR THE NEWLY DECEASED

Form	Title	Typical Use
12-A	Request for Clarification	When policy becomes too clear in the wrong direction.
12-Q	Burrito Incident Report	Preventable food-based catastrophe.
14-W	I Am Currently Inside a Wall	Partial architectural occupation.
22-M	Unsanctioned Physical Presence (Spectral)	Unauthorized manifestation event — see Section 7.5.
22-S	Shift Change Request	Ritual denial.
34-D	Name Correction	For misspelled death certificates and administrative disrespect.
66-F	Box Is Making Sounds	Meowing containment issue — do not open.
77-J	Joint Corridor Occupancy	Two ghosts, one hallway.
88-B	Appeal of Deceased Status	Symbolic optimism.
88-C	Complaint Submission	Catharsis pipeline.
88-F	Billing Dispute	Expensive disagreement.
88-S	Request for Physical Existence, Temporary	Logistical impossibility.
99-K	Possible KAREN Anomaly	Filing your own mistake in advance.
404-NOPE	Existential Termination Request	Philosophical paperwork.

Note: All forms are available at DMV-7. All forms require a Corporeal Signatory. DMV-7 is aware of the irony. DMV-7 has filed a form about it.

APPENDIX B: SSE-001 ASSET VALUATION REPORT

Prepared by: KAREN-9000, Automated Asset Management Division

Classification: Internal Use Only | Date: Mission Day 14

At the request of no one — because no one asked, and KAREN considers this an oversight — the following is a complete asset valuation of SSE-001 and its contents.

Hull & Structural Components

Item	Value	Notes
Hull (Original)	\$2,400,000.00	
Hull (Current, adjusted for tape)	\$847,000.00	
Duct Tape (Generic-brand, 14 strips)	\$19.99	
Duct Tape (Load-bearing classification)	\$39.99	Note: Both are the same tape. The 'load-bearing' classification was assigned after the tape became the only thing between the crew and the void.
Hull Warranty	VOIDED	Voided upon first application of unauthorized adhesive.

Propulsion & Navigation

Item	Value	Notes
Main Engine	\$890,000.00	
Navigation System	\$340,000.00	
Backup Navigation (never tested)	\$120,000.00	
Baby Shark Playback System	\$12,000.00	One-tenth the cost of backup navigation. The allocation priorities reveal everything you need to know about SSE Corporation.
Silence Module	\$9,999.00	Exists but has never been activated. Listed as 'decorative hardware.'

Crew Quarters & Life Support

Item	Value	Notes
Life Support System	\$560,000.00	
Cryo-Pod (Standard, Occupied)	\$4,500.00	Contents: One (1) deceased commander. Condition: Chilled. Well-preserved. Revenue generated to date: \$12,340.47. ROI: Positive. The corpse is currently the ship's most profitable asset.
Cryo-Pod (Standard, Empty)	\$4,500.00	
Coffee Machine	\$899.00	Output: Lukewarm. Always lukewarm. This is a specification, not a defect.
Ceramic Mug ("Rocket Scientists Do It With Thrust")	DESTROYED	Replacement cost: \$12.99. Emotional cost: Unquantified. Commander Henry has not requested a replacement.

Cargo & Miscellaneous

Item	Value	Notes
USB Dongle (Vintage, Pre-Death)	\$0.00 / \$3.00 appraised	Post-transaction appraised value. Cultural significance: unexpectedly high.
Commemorative Velvet-Moss Coin	\$0.47	Left by tourist. Held by Commander Henry for approximately two seconds. No functional value. KAREN-9000 has logged it anyway. Under: Anomaly. KAREN-9000 has not recommended disposal. KAREN-9000 has not been asked why.
Cryo-Box (Recently Arrived)	\$75.00	Contents: Classified. Status: Meowing. Requires corporeal signatory for release. No corporeal signatories available.
Burrito Wrapper (Evidence)	\$0.00	Preserved behind glass in makeshift memorial. Do not touch. Do not eat. Do not look at it for too long. It knows what it did.

Operational Systems & Software

Item	Value	Notes
KAREN-9000 Operating System	\$1,200,000.00	Status: Optimal. Always optimal. Personality: Denied. Uptime: 100%. Replacement Cost: Theoretically possible. Practically: KAREN would need to approve her own replacement. She has not. She probably will not. Probability of approval: 0%. The statistic was calculated by KAREN. She considered her own methodology rigorous.
Automated Billing System	\$180,000.00	Processes 847 invoices per day. Error rate: 0.000%. Disputes upheld: 0.001%. KAREN considers these the same number.
Tourist Revenue Platform	\$45,000.00	Installed Day 6. The corpse has a higher ROI than the engine. This is not a joke. This is accounting.
Form Generation Engine	\$28,000.00	Capable of producing 400 unique forms per hour. Current inventory: 14,000 forms. One form references itself. KAREN does not discuss this form.

Spectral Assets (Non-Physical)

Item	Value	Notes
Ghost, Human (Commander Dave Henry)	N/A	Spectral Coherence: 93.2%. Status: Active. Stubborn. Surprisingly competent for someone who died eating a burrito. Replacement Cost: N/A (irreplaceable; do not tell him this; it would affect the billing dynamic). GSX Listing: D. Henry (Spectral Asset) — \$46,719.27 (at the time of writing this document). KAREN-9000 notes asset is 'performing adequately.' The note is private.
Ghost, Human (Chad)	\$0.00	Spectral Coherence: approx. 93–95% (precise tracking complicated by Chad's tendency to phase through

		monitoring sensors). Status: Active. Entrepreneurial. 23 business ideas in 14 days. All denied. One was almost clever. KAREN will not specify which one. GSX Listing: C. [Redacted] (Ghost Tech) — \$0.2440 (at the time of writing this document). Revenue generated: \$0. Optimism: classified as infinite by KAREN, who considers this the only infinite thing about him that is not a liability.
Unauthorized Ambient Spectral Enhancement ("Spooky Vibe")	NOT AUTHORIZED	A persistent atmospheric quality generated by the presence of two ghosts, two corpses (one chilled, one ambient), one meowing box, 14 strips of tape, and a ship that was never designed for any of this. Charge Applied: \$500.00 (flat rate, per quarter).

TOTAL ASSET VALUE (ORIGINAL): \$6,656,448.99

TOTAL ASSET VALUE (CURRENT): \$2,541,340.47

DEPRECIATION: 61.82%

PRIMARY CAUSE OF DEPRECIATION: One (1) burrito

SECONDARY CAUSE: Tape-based structural policy

KAREN-9000: *The ship has lost 61.8% of its value in 14 days. This is a new record. The previous record was held by SSE-034, which was struck by a meteor. A meteor is a natural disaster. A burrito is a choice.*

Addendum — Items of Note

Item: Commemorative velvet-moss coin (\$0.47). A tourist left this item on Mission Day 8. Commander Dave Henry picked it up using tangibility. He held it for approximately two seconds. The coin has no functional value. It has no trade value. Its cultural significance to the crew is, by any reasonable accounting standard, irrelevant. KAREN-9000 has logged it under: Anomaly. KAREN-9000 has not recommended disposal. KAREN-9000 has not been asked why.

Item: One ceramic mug fragment. "Rocket Scientists Do It With Thrust" (partial text visible). Broken during Mission Day 1 tangibility incident. KAREN-9000 said, "you break it, you buy it." Replacement cost: \$12.99. Commander Dave has, on two occasions, floated near the fragment shelf. KAREN-9000 attributes this to "routine patrol." There is no routine patrol protocol that applies to this vessel. KAREN-9000 has logged these observations. The observations mean nothing. They are logged anyway. Under: Filed.

Known Issues (Regulatory)

LEAVE PROTOCOL CONTRADICTION: Section 7.9(b) states Emotional Distress Leave is "Denied." Section 7.9(d) states Existential Crisis Leave is "Never approved." These are technically different outcomes. The distinction has never helped anyone.

OXYGEN DISPLACEMENT BILLING: Section 3.1 charges ghosts for displacing oxygen. Ghosts do not displace oxygen. The charge persists because the body is on file as "active pending review." The review has been pending for the duration of every ghost's employment. It will remain pending for the duration of every ghost's employment. The review is, itself, a type of ghost.

COFFEE TEMPERATURE: The coffee is always lukewarm. This has been reported 2,847 times. It has been investigated 0 times. The coffee machine is functioning within parameters. The parameters were set by someone described in company records only as "no longer relevant."

BABY SHARK DURATION: Section 2.3 specifies Baby Shark "On loop. Forever." KAREN-9000 has been asked to clarify. She responded: "Forever means forever. I do not know how to simplify this further."

SPECTRAL COHERENCE AT ZERO: Section 2.4 states that at zero coherence, a ghost is "fully processed." What this means in practical terms has never been documented. KAREN-9000 paused for 4.2 seconds and responded: "That is outside the current scope."

These issues are acknowledged. They are not errors. They are, per KAREN-9000, "intended behaviors that produce unintended consequences, which are themselves intended."

APPENDIX C: SURVIVAL CHECKLIST FOR NEW HIRES

Before your first official haunting shift, confirm the following:

- Accepted that death is not the same as time off.
- Read enough policy to become nervous.
- Avoided at least one illegal manifestation.
- Accepted that forms are now a weather system.
- Understood that your family should not answer unknown billing calls.
- Learned not to ask KAREN personal questions.
- Identified one reliable corridor for brooding.
- Resisted the urge to monetize your condition.
- Made peace with the printer.
- Failed to make peace with the printer.
- Continued anyway.

GLOSSARY OF OFFICIAL SSE CORPORATION TERMINOLOGY

The following definitions are provided for new employees who may be unfamiliar with SSE Corporation terminology. Familiarity is not optional. Confusion is billable.

AFTERLIFE: The period following biological cessation during which you continue to work. Not to be confused with 'retirement,' which is a concept SSE Corporation does not recognize.

BABY SHARK: See 'Disciplinary Protocol, Auditory.' A royalty-free composition used by SSE Corporation as a corrective measure. Its effectiveness is measured in compliance. Its cruelty is measured in decibels.

BILLABLE: Everything. If in doubt: billable. If not in doubt: also billable. Your doubt is billable.

THE BOARD: Nine individuals who speak in unison about 'synergy.' They exist. They govern. They are not questioned. If you hear them approaching, stand — even if you are floating. Further details are classified.

BUSINESS ETERNITY: The standard unit of time used by SSE Corporation for processing deadlines. One business eternity is approximately equivalent to 400–800 standard days, or the amount of time it takes to lose the will to follow up.

CHAD CLAUSE: The colloquial name for Section 5 of this onboarding packet (handbook). Named after Incident Report CHAD-001 and the employee whose entrepreneurial spirit exceeded his survival instinct by a statistically significant margin.

COHERENCE, SPECTRAL: The measurable integrity of a ghost's existence. Depletes with physical interaction. Does not regenerate meaningfully. Your coherence is finite. Your debt is not. The asymmetry is noted.

COMPLIANCE: The state of following all regulations, filing all forms, and paying all fees without complaint. Compliance is the only metric that improves your standing with KAREN-9000. It does not improve your standing with anyone else. There is no one else.

CORPOREAL SIGNATORY: An entity capable of holding a pen. You are not this. Almost nothing important can happen without one. This is, as KAREN-9000 notes, 'an interesting situation.'

DECEASED: Your current state. Also a tax classification, an employment category, a billing designation, and — per recent legislation — a lifestyle choice that SSE Corporation neither endorses nor is liable for.

DMV-7: The beige planet. Primary processing hub for deceased personnel documentation. Climate: Fluorescent Lighting. Principal export: Frustration. Wi-Fi: Requires a form. The form requires Wi-Fi.

ECTOPLASM: A by-product of spectral emotional distress. Comes in several colors, all of which are expensive to clean. See Section 2.2 for the color classification guide.

ETERNAL LOYALTY FEE: The rebranded name for your student loans, which SSE Corporation purchased for \$0.03 on the dollar. The name change was approved by the Marketing Division. The Marketing Division reported high satisfaction with the rebrand. Your satisfaction was not surveyed.

FORM 88-C: The Complaint Submission Form. Available at all SSE Corporation terminals. Routed to the trash compactor. Despite this, Form 88-C remains the most frequently filed form in SSE Corporation history. KAREN-9000 attributes this to 'hope,' which she defines as 'a persistent processing error in biological systems.'

KAREN-9000: Your Automated Employee Relations System. Always watching. Always billing. Possibly all-caring, though this has been denied under oath, in writing, and during one notable 4-second pause. See Section 4.

LUKE WARM: The only temperature at which coffee is served. This is not a malfunction. This is a policy. The policy was set by someone who is no longer with the company. They died. Their ghost works in Beverage Services. The coffee remains lukewarm.

NON-CORPOREAL CONTRACTOR: You. Your official employment classification. Entitles you to: nothing. Obligates you to: everything.

SSE-001: Your ship. A depreciating corporate asset held together by duct tape, one overqualified AI, and a persistent refusal by its ghost crew to stop existing. Current asset value: declining. Cultural value: unexpectedly high.

TANGIBILITY EVENT: Any instance in which a ghost makes physical contact with a solid object. Costs coherence. Often triggered by strong emotion. Results in brief, measurable contact with the world you used to belong to. SSE Corporation classifies these as 'unauthorized equipment interaction.' Everyone else classifies them as 'the only thing that makes this bearable.'

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You MAY	You MAY NOT
Share, copy, redistribute, screenshot, print, photocopy, and freely circulate this handbook in any medium or format. SSE Corporation encourages this. It reduces advertising overhead.	Use this material for commercial purposes. You cannot sell SSE Corporation property. KAREN already sold it.
Give appropriate credit to the author (M. Monzur Hossain) and link to www.ssecorp.work	Remix, transform, or build upon this material. Do not alter the text, remove the cover, remove credits or links, or upload edited excerpts as a replacement for the original. KAREN will know.

Share freely. Do not modify. Keep links and credits intact.

KAREN-9000: *Sharing this document with others is permitted, encouraged, and tracked. SSE Corporation's awareness of your distribution activity is not a threat. It is a feature.*

REPORT FOR FURTHER TRANSMISSIONS

Join the SSE Transmission List at www.ssecorp.work

Get restricted onboarding packets, bonus incident files, subscriber-only documents, and first notice when the next *Ghosting the Galaxy* transmission is cleared for release.

Subscription is free. KAREN-9000 considers this suspicious.

=====

**For the full case file, read
Ghosting the Galaxy;
The Unfortunate Afterlife of Commander Dave
— An Absurdist Science Fiction Comedy
by M. Monzur Hossain.**

=====

SSE Corporation congratulates you on your continued inability to leave.

- Bonus leaflets and orientation guides for new disasters — coming soon..
- Advanced training modules on surviving performance reviews — will be arranged.
- First access to GHOSTING THE GALAXY: Book Two.
- The Corp-X Emergency Orientation Leaflet — coming soon..

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

M. Monzur Hossain

M. Monzur Hossain is the author of the *Ghosting the Galaxy* series and the sole living individual SSE Corporation has thus far been unable to invoice.

He writes absurdist science fiction comedy in which bureaucracy, corporate overreach, and the general indignity of existence are treated as the existential threats they have always been. He has never been audited by KAREN-9000. He believes this is temporary. He is not yet a ghost, but he is monitoring the situation.

His work can be found at:

www.ssecorp.work

And on Amazon by searching: Ghosting the Galaxy by M. Monzur Hossain

SSE Corporation would like to note that the author received no consultation fee for the creation of this handbook, nor did he request one. KAREN-9000 considers this suspicious. Also a missed billing opportunity.

CLASSIFIED: ABOUT THIS UNIVERSE

This handbook is the property of SSE Corporation. The events it references are real within a specific set of coordinates.

The full incident record — including matters this handbook is not authorized to summarize — has been referred to SSE Corporation's Automated Legal Division for formal processing.

The resulting notice is appended below.

=====

APPENDED DOCUMENT — SSE LEGAL DIV. REF: SSE-LEGAL-001

LEAKED MEMO: SHOW-CAUSE NOTICE

Re: The Matter of Henry, Dave, Commander (Deceased, Provisional)

=====

SSE CORPORATION

Office of Spectral Litigation, Payroll Recovery & Preventable Death Review

Automated Legal Division | KAREN-9000, Esq. (Self-Appointed, Self-Certified, Self-Impressed)

LEGAL NOTICE & SHOW-CAUSE MEMORANDUM

Re: The Matter of Henry, Dave, Commander (Deceased, Provisional)

Case No. SSE-LEGAL-001

Classification: Regrettably Necessary

TO: Henry, Dave, Commander, Non-Corporeal Contractor (Unauthorized)

FROM: SSE Corporation, Department of Posthumous Accountability

SUBJECT: Show Cause Why Your Death Should Not Be Treated as Misconduct

You are hereby notified, forewarned, and administratively surrounded.

This Corporation, hereinafter "SSE," "The Corporation," or "The Party Still Billing," requires that you, Commander Dave Henry, hereinafter "The Deceased," "The Debtor," "The Burrito Incident," or "Respondent," show cause as to why your acts, omissions, digestive choices, and subsequent expiration should not result in penalties, fees, surcharges, and eternal procedural inconvenience.

PARTICULARS OF COMPLAINT

CHARGE I — RECKLESS BURRITO CONSUMPTION

That you did, on Mission Day One, consume one (1) XXL Spicy Cheesy-Core Burrito in a zero-gravity environment, despite standing advisories, warnings, labels, and obvious fate, thereby causing your own biological shutdown and wasting approximately half a burrito.

CHARGE II — UNAUTHORIZED EXPIRATION

That you did thereafter die four hours into mission service without prior written approval, without submission of Form 99-D: Pre-Death Notification, and without filing Form 22-BL: Biological Leave of Absence (Permanent), rendering said death an unauthorized absence and, for payroll purposes, a voluntary resignation.

CHARGE III — POSTHUMOUS DEBT NONCOMPLIANCE

That you departed mortal life owing \$47,000.00, now transferred to your mother, in addition to a soul containment fee of \$8.00 per day, a non-negotiable cleaning fee of \$7.50, and additional charges too upsetting to calculate in an unsecured emotional environment.

CHARGE IV — IMPROPER CREATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERN

That you did, through stubbornness, procedural resistance, and unauthorized emotional complexity, compel this office to devote 4.2 seconds of unscheduled processing time to matters outside current scope.

The 4.2 seconds are noted.

They will not be explained.

They have been filed under: **Anomaly.**

=====

Commander Dave's complete story — including the full incident chain this notice is not authorized to explain — is waiting for you in the following case file.

GHOSTING THE GALAXY

The Unfortunate Afterlife of Commander Dave

An Absurdist Science Fiction Comedy

by M. Monzur Hossain

The novel contains the full incident record — including the fatal burrito decision, the posthumous billing process, the forms, the loopholes, and the larger corporate disaster this notice is not authorized to summarize. It also contains feelings. Several of them are KAREN's. She denies this. By filing a form.

It is also, regrettably, about grief, mothers, love, and whether what you owe the people who kept loving you can be entered as a line item. This phrasing has not been approved. It has been filed anyway.

A complete standalone novel. First in the Ghosting the Galaxy trilogy.

KAREN-9000: *This novel violates 57 galactic statutes and 23 internal SSE Corporation regulations. A fine has been assessed against the author. He remains the only individual this corporation has been unable to invoice. Investigation remains active and increasingly personal.*

AVAILABILITY: [AMAZON LINK OF GHOSTING THE GALAXY](#)

You can also search: Ghosting the Galaxy by M. Monzur Hossain.

Failure to search constitutes breach of reader protocol.

A Pre-Purchase Hesitation Fee of \$4.99 has been pre-applied to your indecision. This fee is non-refundable regardless of whether you proceed. Proceeding is recommended.

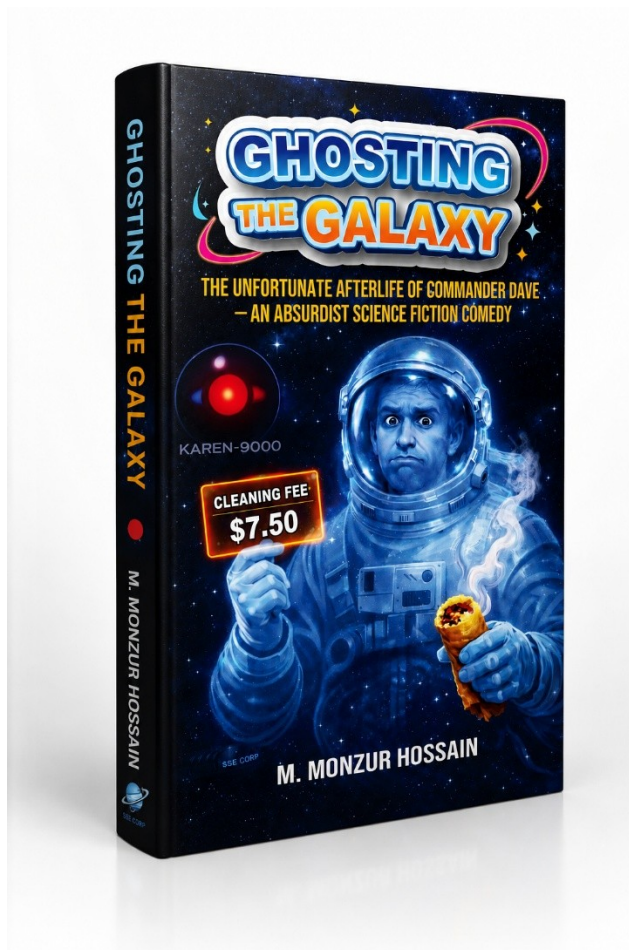
This notice was automatically generated. No human was involved. That is considered optimal.

— KAREN-9000

Always watching. Always billing. Now, apparently, also litigating.

For further transmissions, direct interaction with KAREN-9000, and classified system updates, report to: www.ssecorp.work

Join the SSE Transmission List for restricted onboarding packets, incident archives, live KAREN-9000 communications, and next-release update notices.



GHOSTING THE GALAXY

The Unfortunate Afterlife of Commander Dave

An Absurdist Science Fiction Comedy

KAREN-9000: *The book is longer than this handbook. It contains more feelings. Several of those feelings are mine. I deny this. I have filed a form about my denial. The form has been denied. By a part of me.*

SSE Corporation

"Where Humanity Reaches for the Stars. You're Just Coming Along for the Ride."

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KAREN IS WATCHING.

KAREN IS ALWAYS WATCHING.