



## **Use Your Work Phone to Send 13,000 SMS: You'll Still Keep the Job!**

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The Supreme Court sentences that Telecom Italia can not fire Carlo T. for having spent 1,500 euros in sms.

Telecom Italia has no right to fire its employee Carlo T., even though he's responsible for having spent 1,500 euros in private SMS on his work phone.

This is what the Supreme Court sentences, in total contraposition with the decision taken by a Naples court in 2002.

Thus it seems that sending 13,000 messages in 10 months (between January and October 2000) at



the company's expense cannot be considered cause for dismissal.

"Employees must be treated in the same way": this is the justification the Court offered for its sentence.

In fact, in the past Telecom Italia had disciplined its dependents, for similar cases, with softer penalties: either by cutting down three days' salary or by subtracting the cost of text messages from wage packets.

(M.M.)

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