



ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

RSA Plaza Suite 226
770 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104-3807

334/242-5700
In-state WATS: 1-800-435-9743
Fax: 334/242-2711
www.asbpa.alabama.gov

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 300375
Montgomery, AL 36130-0375

D. Boyd Busby, CPA
Executive Director

December 8, 2020

CERTIFIED MAIL 7016 2140 0000 8815 2548

Mr. Brett M. Bloomston
The Bloomston Law Firm
2151 Highland Avenue South, Suite 310
Birmingham, AL 35205

RE: CONNIE JO PHILLIPS, CPA
Certificate No. 9369
Case No. 20-21
CONNIE J PHILLIPS CPA
Firm No. F1857

Dear Mr. Bloomston:

Enclosed is the Final Order by the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy ("the Board") dated November 20, 2020. The Order fines your client \$3,000.00, that she completes the NASBA CPT Ethics Training Course within 60 days, and that she completes the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) course title "Preparation, Compilation and Review Engagement Guide" within 60 days. Additionally, the Order requires that your client not issue any reports subject to Peer Review without receiving express written consent from the Board.

The administrative fine of \$3,000.00 is due within 30 days from the Board meeting and the cashier's check or money order should be made payable to the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy and mailed to the Board at the address shown above. If your client has not already completed the NASBA CPT Ethics Training Course, she may find the link on the Board's web site. If your client need the link to the AICPA's course, or if you have questions, please contact me at the number shown above.

Sincerely,

D. Boyd Busby, CPA
Executive Director

DBB/tt

Enclosure

BEFORE THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
COMPLAINT AGAINST:)
CONNIE JO PHILLIPS, CPA) CASE NO. 20-21
CERTIFICATE NO. 9369)
CONNIE J PHILLIPS CPA)
FIRM NO. F1857)
RESPONDENT.)

ORDER

COMES NOW the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy ("the Board"), and, following a full and fair hearing before the Board on November 20, 2020, in Montgomery, AL, in the matter of the complaint against CONNIE JO PHILLIPS, CPA, Certificate No. 9369, makes the following Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law in support of this Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Alabama and was always so registered relevant to this complaint.
2. Respondent undertook to prepare five (5) compilation reports with year ends from 2017 through 2019 for submission to the Alabama Department of Insurance Pre-Need Division (ALDOP) in compliance with the ALDOP reporting requirements. Respondent subsequently prepared and submitted to the ALDOI documents comprising compilation reports intended to be considered in compliance with the ALDOI reporting requirements.
3. The compilation engagements reviewed by the Board were inadequate in that they reflected a lack of the due professional care required of a certified public accountant and a lack of compliance with applicable technical standards, both promulgated by a body designated by Council of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to establish such standards

and principles.

4. The Respondent, at her request, was removed from the peer review program in 2018 stating that she had not issued reports subject to peer review since 2016 and since then has indicated on her registrations that she issues no reports subject to peer review.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board finds that the facts as established in the signed Consent Agreement, as presented at the hearing and outlined above, constitute a violation of Sections 34-1-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as follows:

1. Respondent admits she is subject to the provisions of the ALA. CODE (1975) §§ 34-1-1-22 and the jurisdiction of the Board.

2. Respondent stipulates that her conduct as set for in the “Findings of Facts” constitutes a violation of one or more of the following statutes and administrative rules: ALA. CODE (1975) §§ 34-1-12(a)(4), and 34-1-12(a)(14); and/or Ala. Admin. Code r. 30-X-6-.03(1)(b), 30-X-6-.03(4), 30-X-8-.03(5), and 30-X-8-.04(2).

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED by this Board that the Respondent be Censured, fined three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) within 30 days, requires her to complete the NASBA CPT Ethics Training Course within 60 days, requires her to complete the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) course title “Preparation, Compilation and Review Engagement Guide” within 60 days, and shall not issue any reports subject to Peer Review without receiving express written consent from the Board.


DONE this 20th day of November 2020.

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

CONCUR:

MMES. PRINCE AND SHEPPARD-HARRIS
AND MESSRS. BLACKMON, GRICE, KINTZ,
MADISON, AND SCHAFFERS

ATTEST:



D. Boyd Busby, CPA
Executive Director
December 8, 2020

BEFORE THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
COMPLAINT AGAINST:)
CONNIE JO PHILLIPS, CPA) CASE NO. 20-21
CERTIFICATE NO. 9369)
CONNIE J PHILLIPS CPA)
FIRM NO. F1857)
RESPONDENT.)

CONSENT AGREEMENT

Connie Jo Phillips, an Alabama Certified Public Accountant (hereinafter referred to as "Respondent") hereby stipulates and agrees, subject to approval by the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), as follows:

STIPULATED FACTS

1. Respondent undertook to prepare five (5) compilation reports with year ends from 2017 through 2019 for submission to the Alabama Department of Insurance Pre-Need Division (ALDOP) in compliance with the ALDOP reporting requirements. Respondent subsequently prepared and submitted to the ALDOI documents comprising compilation reports intended to be considered in compliance with the ALDOI reporting requirements.

2. The compilation engagements reviewed by the Board were inadequate in that they reflected a lack of the due professional care required of a certified public accountant and a lack of compliance with applicable technical standards, both promulgated by a body designated by Council of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to establish such standards and principles.

3. The Respondent, at her request, was removed from the peer review program in 2018 stating that she had not issued reports subject to peer review since 2016 and since then has indicated on her registrations that she issues no reports subject to peer review.

STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

4. Respondent admits she is subject to the provisions of the Ala. Code (1975) §§ 34-1-1-22 and the jurisdiction of the Board.

5. Respondent stipulates that the circumstances set forth in the "Stipulated Facts" constitutes a violation of one or more of the following statutes and administrative rules: Ala. Code (1975) §§ 34-1-12(a)(4), and 34-1-12(a)(14); and/or Ala. Admin. Code r. 30-X-6-.03(1)(b), 30-X-6-.03(4), 30-X-8-.03(5), and 30-X-8-.04(2).

6. Respondent stipulates the circumstances set forth in the "Stipulated Facts" are a basis for disciplinary action by the Board.

STIPULATED DISPOSITION

7. Respondent shall refrain from violating the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 1, Ala. Code (1975).

8. Respondent understands this Consent Agreement and subsequent Final Order will be a public record, and this information may be placed on the Board's website and in its newsletter.

9. Respondent acknowledges that the Final Order will be considered a censure by the Board pursuant to Ala. Code (1975) § 34-1-13(b).

10. Respondent shall submit to the Board an administrative fine of \$3,000.00 (three-thousand dollars). The fine is due within 30 days of the Board's acceptance of this agreement.

11. Respondent shall complete the Ethical Leadership Training Program provided by the National Association of State Board of Accountancy (NASBA) Center for Public Trust with a passing score of 80 and provide proof of completion within ⁶⁰~~30~~ days of the Board's acceptance of this agreement. ^{BB}

12. Respondent shall complete the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) course titled "Preparation, Compilation and Review Engagement Guide" and provide proof of completion within ⁶⁰~~30~~ days of the Board's acceptance of this agreement. ^{BB}

13. Respondent shall not issue any reports subject to Peer Review without receiving express written approval from the Board.

14. Respondent understands this Consent Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board and has no force and effect until a Final Order based upon it is rendered by the Board.

15. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and understands failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement may result in additional charges or discipline.

16. Respondent understands in order to make a decision relative to approving this Consent Agreement discussions must take place between Board Members, Board Staff and Board Counsel. Respondent understands that the discussion will take place at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

17. Respondent understands she has the right to seek the advice of legal counsel. Respondent also understands she has the right to a formal fact-finding hearing before the Board, to compel the testimony of witnesses, to cross-examine witnesses against her, and to obtain

judicial review of the Board's decision in said formal hearing but expressly waives these rights with execution of this Consent Agreement and Final Order of the Board.

18. Respondent expressly waives all further procedural steps, and expressly waives all rights to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of the Consent Agreement, the stipulated facts, conclusions of law and imposition of administrative action contained herein, and the Final Order of the Board incorporating said Consent Agreement.

19. Respondent, for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this Cause executes this Consent Agreement. It is agreed that presentation to and consideration of the Consent Agreement by the Board requires certain factual information related to this matter be disclosed to the Board members. Should the Consent Agreement not be accepted by the Board, it is therefore expressly agreed that the reviewing, and consideration of this Consent Agreement, and the information provided to the Board for their review, shall not unfairly prejudice the Board and shall in no way act to disqualify any Board member from any further participation in this matter through its resolution, including, but not limited to, any contested hearing on this matter should one be necessary. Likewise, if this Consent Agreement is not accepted, the Board shall not take into consideration the contents of this Agreement as evidence of an admission and all stipulations hereinabove are thereby rescinded.

FOR THE BOARD

12/7/2020

DATE

Billington M. Garrett

BILLINGTON M. GARRETT, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General, Office of the
Attorney General

FOR THE RESPONDENT

11/18/2020

DATE

Connie Jo Phillips
CONNIE JO PHILLIPS

Brett M. Bloomston
Brett M. Bloomston, Esq.
Attorney for the Respondent

State of Alabama

County of Jefferson

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public on this 18th day of November 2020.

Lindsey Michelle Hall

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 12/30/22

Expires: 12/30/22

