

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**

In the Matter of the CPA Certificate of

Brandon J. Van Asten
CPA Certificate No. 30704

**STIPULATION AND
CONSENT ORDER**

Board File No. 2024-147

STIPULATION

Brandon Van Asten (“Respondent”) and the Minnesota Board of Accountancy’s Complaint Committee stipulate that, subject to Board’s review and discretionary approval, the Board may issue a consent order that imposes the following sanctions:

A. Respondent shall pay to the Board a CIVIL PENALTY of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). Respondent shall submit the civil penalty by check to the Board within sixty (60) days of the Board’s approval of this Stipulation and Consent Order.

B. Respondent shall comply with all statutes and rules within the Board’s jurisdiction. *See* Minn. Stat. ch. 326A (2022) and Minn. R. ch. 1105 (2023).

C. Respondent shall report in writing within ten days any violations of this stipulation and consent order to the Board’s Executive Director.

Respondent and the Committee enter into this stipulation based on the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and other stipulated provisions:

Findings of Fact

1. The Board issued Respondent a CPA certificate on January 11, 2018.
2. The Board selected Respondent for audit of his continuing education (“CPE”) records for the three-year period ending June 30, 2023.
3. Respondent previously reported 43.2 hours for the CPE reporting year ended June 30, 2021, but could only verify 24.2 hours after two courses were removed. As a result, Respondent was short 14 hours for three-year period ended June 30, 2021.
 - a. The two removed courses, totaling 19 hours, were non-approved self-study hours, which is not allowed under Minnesota Rule 1105.3100, subp. 2 (2023).
 - b. These two courses were taken through a sponsor that is a National Association of State Boards of Accountancy Quality Assurance Service (“NASBA QAS”) approved self-study provider, but the courses themselves were not NASBA QAS approved courses.
4. In his response to the Board, the Respondent stated: “I misunderstood what self-study meant and reported these hours here, which when declined, put me 14 hours short on the rolling 3-year period.”
5. Respondent carried back 14 hours to CPE reporting year ended June 30, 2021, and paid the noncompliance fee.
6. Respondent submitted false information for his CPE for the CPE reporting year ended June 30, 2021, with his 2022, 2023, and 2024 renewals by affirming on those renewals that he had completed the CPE hours and such hours complied with the 1-year and rolling 3-year CPE requirements.
7. Respondent works in private industry.

Conclusion of Law

1. The Board has authority to license and regulate certified public accountants and to take disciplinary action as appropriate. Minn. Stat. ch. 326A (2022).
2. Respondent violated Minn. Stat. § 326A.04, subd. 4 (2022) and Minn. R. 1105.3000(A) and (E), 1105.3200(B), 1105.5600, subp. 1(A) and (C)(5), and 1105.7800(A) and (B) (2023).
3. Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326A.08, subd. 5(a)(1) and (5) (2022).
4. This stipulation and consent order is in the public interest.

Other Stipulated Provisions

1. This stipulation and consent order must be approved by the Board to become effective.
2. Respondent agrees that the Committee may move the Board *ex parte*, with or without advance notice to the Respondent, to approve this stipulation and consent order. Respondent understands that the Board may either approve the stipulation and consent order or not approve it. This stipulation and the files, records, and proceedings associated with this matter may be reviewed by the Board in its consideration of the Committee's motion.
3. If approved by the Board, this stipulation and consent order shall be classified as public data. Minn. Stat. § 13.41, subd. 5 (2022).
4. If the Board does not approve this stipulation and consent order, then the matter remains unresolved and the Committee may either seek to negotiate a revised stipulation and consent order with Respondent to present to the Board or issue an order commencing a

contested-case hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings. See Minn. Stat. §§ 14.57–.62, 214.10, subd. 2 (2022) (describing administrative hearing process).

5. Respondent agrees that if this case comes before the Board again after it reviews and discusses this stipulation and consent order, Respondent waives any claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this stipulation and consent order and any records relating to it.

6. Respondent acknowledges that they were advised by the Committee of their right to a contested-case hearing in this matter before an Administrative Law Judge, to file exceptions and make argument to the Board after the hearing, and to seek judicial review from any adverse decision rendered by the Board. Respondent hereby expressly waives those rights. Respondent was further advised by the Committee of their right to be represented by counsel and that they knowingly waive that right.

7. Respondent has read, understands, and agrees to this stipulation and has voluntarily signed it. It is expressly understood that this stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise. If approved by the Board, a copy of the final stipulation and consent order shall be served personally or by first class mail on Respondent. The Board's order shall be effective when it is signed by the Chair of the Board or the Chair's designee.

8. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.13 (2022), any civil penalty imposed by this stipulation and consent order shall begin to accrue simple interest in accordance with that section thirty days after the civil penalty is due. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.17 (2022), thirty days after any civil penalty imposed by this stipulation and consent order is due, the Board may

file and enforce any unpaid portion of the civil penalty as a judgment against Respondent in district court without further notice or additional proceedings.



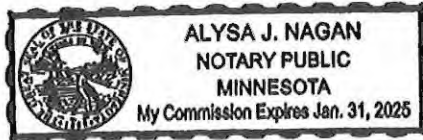
Brandon J. Van Asten, CPA

STATE OF Minnesota

COUNTY OF Hennepin

This instrument was acknowledged before me on 11/22/2024 by Brandon Van Asten.

(stamp)



(Signature of notary officer)

My commission expires: Jan. 31, 2025

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE



ANN ETTER, CPA


Chair

Dated: Dec 4, 2024

CONSENT ORDER

Upon consideration of this stipulation and consent order, and based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein, all terms of the stipulation and consent order are approved. Accordingly, the Board hereby ADOPTS the stipulation and issues the ORDER described above.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY


GODSON SOWATT

Dated: 12/04, 2024

FOR:

CHARLES SELCER, CPA
Board Chair