CPA Certificate Renewal Deadline

The deadline for individual CPA license renewal for North Carolina CPAs is June 30.

The renewal link is in the “How Do I” box on the homepage of the Board’s website, nccpaboard.gov.

An overview of the renewal process was published in the April 2021 Activity Review.

Detailed instructions for completing the renewal are included in the online renewal.

A CPA who doesn’t complete the renewal or request inactive status before July 1, 2021, may receive a Letter of Demand from the Board.

Failure to renew your license or request inactive status within 30 days of the mailing of the Letter of Demand will result in automatic forfeiture of your CPA license.

For general questions about CPA license renewal, contact the Board’s Licensing Manager, Buck Winslow, at buckw@nccpaboard.gov.

Contact the Board’s Licensing Specialist, Cammie Emery, at cemery@nccpaboard.gov with specific questions about CPE.

Contingent Fees and COVID-19 Economic Assistance Programs

Over the past year, the federal government created many programs to address financial difficulties triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programs like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Paid Leave Credit, and the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) are opportunities for CPAs to provide professional services to clients who may benefit from those programs. These programs are new and complex, making it difficult for CPAs to determine how to value their services related to the new programs. Some CPAs may seek to provide services on a contingent fee basis.

The Board’s rules define a contingent fee as

a fee established for the performance of any service pursuant to an arrangement in which no fee will be charged unless a specified finding or result is attained, or in which the amount of the fee is otherwise dependent upon the finding or result of such service. [21 NCAC 08A .0301(b)(12)]

Although 21 NCAC 08N .0303, Objectivity and Conflicts of Interest, allows the acceptance of contingent fees, the rule does prohibit contingent fees in specific situations:

- Providing professional services for any person for whom the CPA also performs attest services, during the period of the attest engagement and the period covered by the financial statements involved in the attest services; and

Contingent Fees continued on page 4

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Disciplinary Actions

Pursuant to NCGS 93-12(9), civil penalties are remitted to the North Carolina Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund (“Fund”) in accordance with NCGS 115C-457.2. NCGS 115C-457.1(b) states, “The Fund shall be administered by the Office of State Budget and Management. The Fund and all interest accruing to the Fund shall be faithfully used exclusively for maintaining free public schools.”

JOHN C. SMITH, JR., #10161 | JOHN C. SMITH, JR., CPA, PLLC | PINK HILL, NC

THIS CAUSE, coming before the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners (“Board”) at its offices at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, with a quorum present. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §150B-41, the Board, the Respondent, and the Respondent Firm stipulate to the following:

1. John C. Smith, Jr., CPA (hereinafter “Respondent”), is the holder of North Carolina certificate number 10161 as a Certified Public Accountant.
2. John C. Smith, Jr., CPA, PLLC (hereinafter “Respondent Firm”), is a registered certified public accounting firm in North Carolina. Hereinafter, the Respondent and the Respondent Firm shall collectively be referred to as the “Respondents.”
3. The Respondent Firm received “Pass with Deficiencies” ratings on its last three (3) engagement peer reviews, dated for the years 2012, 2015, and 2018. The reports identified that a preparation omitting disclosures engagement failed to disclose the omission of all disclosures as required by standards.
4. On January 7, 2020, a hearing panel of the AICPA Peer Review Board terminated the Respondent Firm from the AICPA Peer Review Program due to the consecutive peer review report ratings of “Pass with Deficiencies.” The Respondent Firm appealed that decision; however, the termination was upheld by the hearing panel of the AICPA Peer Review Board and made effective November 30, 2020.
5. The Respondents have now ceased performing engagements that require a peer review. The Respondents continue to perform financial preparation services.
6. The Respondents wish to resolve this matter by consent and agree that the Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board ex parte, whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written. The Respondents understand and agree that this Consent Order is subject to review and approval by the Board and is not effective until approved by the Board at a duly constituted Board Meeting.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, the Board makes the following Conclusions of Law:

1. The Respondents are subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, including the Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct promulgated and adopted thereunder by the Board.
2. The Respondents’ failure to perform attest and assurance services in accordance to standards constitutes a violation of 21 NCAC 08N .0404, and .0212.
3. Per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93-12(9), and also by virtue of the Respondents’ consent to this order, the Respondents are subject to the discipline set forth below.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING and in lieu of further proceedings, the Board and the Respondents agree to the following Order:

1. The Respondent has confirmed that neither he nor the Respondent Firm are currently participating in, performing, or reviewing any services subject to peer review.
2. All persons performing financial preparation services shall participate in at least four (4) hours of continuing professional education in SSARS annually for a period of three (3) years. The Respondent shall provide copies of certificates of completion for that CPE to the Board at the time of his annual certificate renewal.
3. Prior to either of the Respondents participating in, performing, or reviewing any services subject to peer review, the Respondents shall be required to complete the following:
   a. The Respondent shall participate in at least four (4) hours of continuing professional education in SSARS annually until such time that the Respondent Firm receives a Pass on its next peer review. Those hours may be counted towards the Respondent’s annual CPE requirement.
   b. In the event that the Respondent participates in an audit engagement, that audit must be subject to review prior to issuance of the report, pursuant to the Board’s Pre-issuance Review Procedures.

Order Approved by the Board on April 19, 2021.
THIS CAUSE, coming before the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners (“Board”) at its offices at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, with a quorum present. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §150B-41, the Board and the Respondent stipulate to the following:

1. James Fredrick Griffin, CPA (hereinafter “Respondent”), is the holder of North Carolina certificate number 8583 as a Certified Public Accountant.

2. The Board received a complaint from a client of the Respondent. The complaint asserts that the Respondent was hired in order to clear up some purported tax delinquencies with the North Carolina Department of Revenue (“DOR”) from tax years 2012 and 2013. The complainant signed a Power of Attorney form so that the Respondent could discuss the matters with the DOR.

3. The Respondent became unresponsive, and the matter remained unsettled. The complainant hired a new CPA and requested the return of her records on November 9, 2020. The complainant did not receive a response to her records request and filed her complaint on January 20, 2021.

4. The Respondent states that he had medical issues that hindered his ability to provide services to his client. He asserts that he had requested additional information from the complainant but did not receive anything from her, causing some delay. He returned the complainant’s original records on February 11, 2021.

5. The Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by consent and agrees that the Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board ex parte, whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written. The Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order is subject to review and approval by the Board and is not effective until approved by the Board at a duly constituted Board Meeting.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, the Board makes the following Conclusions of Law:

1. The Respondent is subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, including the Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct promulgated and adopted therein by the Board.

2. If proven at hearing, the facts set forth above alleging the Respondent’s unresponsiveness is a violation of 21 NCAC 08N .0212.

3. If proven at hearing, the facts set forth above alleging the Respondent’s failure to timely return client records is a violation of 21 NCAC 08N .0305.

4. Per N.C. Gen. Stat. §93-12(9), and also by virtue of the Respondent’s consent to this order, the Respondent is subject to the discipline set forth below.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING and in lieu of further proceedings, the Board and the Respondent agree to the following Order:

1. The Respondent, James Fredrick Griffin, CPA, is censured.

Order Approved by the Board on May 24, 2021.

Disciplinary Actions
continued on page 6

2021 Board Meetings
Under NC Gen. Stat. §143-318.10, all official Board meetings are open to the public, and anyone may attend a meeting. The public may be excluded from certain portions of the meeting as allowed by NC Gen. Stat. §143-318.11, Closed Sessions.

For more information on Board meetings, visit nccpaboard.gov/about.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raleigh/Webex Mon. July 26 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Raleigh/Webex Mon. Aug. 23 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Raleigh/Webex Mon. Sept. 20 10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raleigh/Webex Mon. Oct. 18 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Raleigh/Webex Mon. Nov. 22 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Raleigh/Webex Mon. Dec. 13 10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Board will meet in-person for the rest of 2021. However, Board members, staff, and guests may choose to participate via WebEx.

To participate via WebEx, please send your name, email address, telephone number, and employer/firm name to communications@nccpaboard.gov at least three (3) business days before the scheduled meeting.
Contingent Fees
continued from page 1

- Preparing original or amended tax returns or claims for tax refunds.

For example, to claim the ERC credit, an eligible employer must file a claim for refund or make an interest-free adjustment by filing Form 941-X, Adjusted Employer’s Quarterly Federal Tax Return or Claim for Refund, for a past calendar quarter to claim the ERC for which the employer was entitled on qualified wages paid in that past calendar quarter.

This type of service would fall in the latter category above, and a North Carolina CPA cannot perform that service on a contingent fee basis. The Board’s rule on contingent fees is consistent with most other comparable guidelines, including the rules of other boards of accountancy, the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, and IRS Circular 230.

The Board is aware that some CPAs and firms have created separate entities to provide consulting and other non-traditional CPA services.

Under 21 NCAC 08N .0103, Responsibility for Compliance by Others, a CPA or CPA firm shall not permit others (including affiliated entities) to carry out on the CPA’s behalf, with or without compensation, acts that if carried out by the CPA would be a violation of these Rules.

In other words, CPAs cannot create and control a separate entity to attempt to circumvent the contingent fee prohibition.

To ensure that you are informed and aware of any issues that might arise when providing services related to pandemic assistance programs, please review 21 NCAC 08N .0303, Objectivity and Conflicts of Interest (https://bit.ly/3wZRIw9).

If you have specific questions or comments about the acceptance of contingent fees, please contact Frank Trainor, Esq., the Board’s Staff Attorney, at ftrainor@nccpaboard.gov.

Prometric Reinstating Biometric Procedures

On June 7, 2021, Prometric reinstated fingerprint and ID scans for the CPA Exam in all its test centers.

To help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, all test takers must use hand sanitizer before using any fingerprint scanners. Prometric staff will wipe down devices with cleaner after each use.

While maintaining social distancing, test takers will lower, but not remove, their masks for image capture.

Test center staff will maintain social distancing when assisting test takers with the fingerprint scanner and ID scan.

Candidates are encouraged to review the Prometric Test Center Policies before testing. If you have any additional concerns, please contact NASBA at cpaexam@nasba.org.

CPA Exam Fees Effective August 1, 2021

Effective August 1, 2021, the Uniform CPA Examination fees charged by Prometric will increase. NASBA, AICPA, and Board fees are not changing.

Applications postmarked on or before July 31, 2021, will be processed using the current fee schedule. Applications postmarked on or after August 1, 2021, will be processed using the new fee.

Please send your questions about the CPA Exam to Phyllis Elliott, the Board’s Exam Specialist, by email at phyllise@nccpaboard.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Post-marked on or before July 31, 2021</th>
<th>Application Post-marked on or after August 1, 2021</th>
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Successful CPA Exam Candidates

The Board is pleased to announce that the following North Carolina Uniform CPA Exam candidates passed the Exam in April 2021:

Christopher Matthew Bone
John Thomas Boyette
Justin Michael Boyles
Claire Nichole Dockrill
Kathleen Alexis Eaton
Hope Alexis Gibson
Patrick Joseph Hoan
Tynishia Victoria Lakey
Emily Elizabeth Lower
Aaron Matthew Montgomery
Daniel Louis Sferruzzo
Scott Kristopher Smith
Ivy Skylar Trent
Sonya Uppliappan
Vien Tri Van

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<tr>
<th>2021 Exam Score Release Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you take your exam on or before:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23, 2021</td>
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<td>August 15, 2021</td>
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<td>September 7, 2021</td>
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<td>October 23, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31, 2021</td>
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Follow NASBA on Twitter (@NASBA) for score release updates.

CPA Certificates Issued

On May 24, 2021, the Board approved the following individuals for North Carolina CPA licensure:

Joshua Steven Abrahams Hailey Madison Fretwell Matthew James Mirabile
Benjamin Bradshaw Adams Jerry David Golub Victoria Nicole Mitchl
Kyle Paul Albertelli Nathaniel Caleb Goodman Johnathan Craig Modlin
Austin Matthew Baker Matthew Joseph Griffith Matthew Thomas Morefield
Michael Seth Beam, IV Brian Michael Hardin Krystyna Morozova
Kyle Benjamin Beebe Clayton Russell Harris Asaf Ravid
Mary Elizabeth Blair Ann Mebane Hine Eileen Celeste Rose
Cecilia Choto Blanco Daniel Ryan Hudson Jason Taylor Ruvio
Haley Pace Boger Christine Samatha Johnson Tianxiang Shen
Tiffany Pugh Brooks Iryna Mykolaivna Kharlamova Laura Lewis Shintay
Mary Evelyn Brown Rebecca Faith Kirk Margaret Mae Strickland
Taylor Lauren Brown Chloe Jean Klingensmith Matthew Ryan Sullivan
Zachary Eric Brown Jillian Layne Logan Yosef Gizaw Teffera
James Michael Burns LeeAnne Marie Lower William Alexander Thompson
Sarah Nicole Cacciabaudo Evan Scott Lucas Noble Graham Vaughan
McKenna Elizabeth Coker James Joseph Mastrangelo Elliott S. Ventiere
Carrie Cecile Culpepper Nicholas T. Matthews Mary Alice Walsh
Stewart Pulliam Dula Natalia McNeill Hannah Dickinson Weaver
Christopher Glen Foody Dhwani Mehul Mehta Tanner Henderson West
THIS CAUSE, coming before the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners ("Board") at its offices at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, with a quorum present. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §150B-41, the Board and Respondent stipulate to the following:

1. Lisa B. Barnette, CPA (hereinafter "Respondent"), is the holder of North Carolina certificate number 31615 as a Certified Public Accountant.

2. The Respondent informed the Board on her 2019-2020 individual certificate Renewal ("Renewal") that between January 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019, she had obtained the requisite forty (40) hours of continuing professional education ("CPE") to meet the 2018 CPE requirements.

3. Based on the Respondent’s representation, the Board accepted her Renewal.

4. Board staff requested that the Respondent provide certificates of completion for the CPE reported to meet her 2018 and 2019 requirements.

5. The Respondent was unable to provide documentation for sixteen (16) hours of the forty (40) hours of 2018 CPE hours that she claimed on her 2019-2020 annual renewal.

6. Per Section 3.20 of Session Law 2020-97, the North Carolina General Assembly has authorized State agencies to exercise regulatory flexibility during the Coronavirus emergency in order to protect the economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of North Carolina. The Board finds that allowing the Respondent to retain an active CPA certificate, under the facts set forth above, furthers that goal.

7. The Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by consent and agrees that the Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board ex parte, whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written. The Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order is subject to review and approval by the Board and is not effective until approved by the Board at a duly constituted Board Meeting.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, the Board makes the following Conclusions of Law:

1. The Respondent is subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, including the Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct promulgated and adopted therein by the Board.

2. The Respondent’s actions as set out above constitute violations of 21 NCAC 08N .0202(a), .0202(b)(3), and .0202(b)(4).

3. Per N.C. Gen. Stat. §93-12(9) and also by virtue of the Respondent’s consent to this order, the Respondent is subject to the discipline set forth below.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING and in lieu of further proceedings, the Board and the Respondent agree to the following Order:

1. The Respondent’s CPA certificate is suspended for one year.

2. In light of the aforementioned State policy to exercise regulatory flexibility, the Respondent’s suspension is stayed. The stay shall be lifted if the Board finds that the Respondent has engaged in further violations of the Board’s Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct.

3. The Respondent shall pay a one thousand dollar ($1,000) civil penalty, to be remitted to the Board with this Consent Order.

Order Approved by the Board on May 24, 2021.
Inactive Status

Between May 1, 2021, and May 31, 2021, the Board approved the individuals listed below for inactive status. 21 NCAC 08A .0301(b)(20) states: “Inactive,” when used to refer to the status of a person, describes a person who has requested inactive status and been approved by the Board and who does not use the title “certified public accountant” nor does he or she allow anyone to refer to him or her as a “certified public accountant,” and neither he nor she nor anyone else refers to him or her in any representation as described in Rule .0308(b) of this Section.”

James Douglas Arnold, #28626  Knoxville, TN
Jennifer Ann Beck, #43927  Chattanooga, TN
Karen Bentley Duncan, #21318  Morganton, NC
John Anthony Iannotti, #28854  Tysons, VA
Michael Joseph Savino, #23801  Durham, NC
Colleen Ann Wear, #30884  New Bern, NC
Amy Maliga Winstead, #24106  Melbourne, FL
Stephen Wayne York, #23982  Ellenboro, NC
Susan McGrath, #40084  Morehead City, NC
Laura Stokes Pritchard, #42042  Travelers Rest, SC
William Edward Adkins, #8426  Hickory, NC
H. Parry Bliss, Jr., #7102  New York, NY
David William Keesee, #24582  Chapel Hill, NC
Benjamin Richard Lahue, #41677  Seattle, WA
George Bayard Noxon, #15312  Lewisville, NC
Ryan James Rate, #33109  Florham Park, NJ
Cory Joseph Hahn, #43144  Indian Land, SC
Ann Louise Ledford, #19590  Fuquay-Varina, NC
David Thomas Rieling, #27810  Aylett, VA
Laura Anne Hoover, #44320  Johnson City, TN
Malcolm Houston Niven, #14513  Charlotte, NC
Venitta Jo Reeves, #29504  Wrightsville Beach, NC
Jennifer Grace Stevenson, #32560  Charlotte, NC
Sadie Auman Vereyken, #20081  Randleman, NC
Stephen Allan Vicknair, #20262  Alpharetta, GA
Jesse Ray Boger, #16239  Harrisburg, NC
Stephen Garth Glauser, #43308  Hobbs, NM
Dale Thomas Snider, #16555  Greensboro, NC
Cynthia Martin, #16366  Greensboro, NC
Sherry Angell Wescott, #23230  Mansns Harbor, NC
Martha Vaughn Boyles, #15738  Statesville, NC
William Cody Howard, #44199  Grovetown, GA
Anne Bradshaw Wrenn, #17845  Kernersville, NC
Barry Dale Harts, #8591  Greensboro, NC
Douglas Allen Hunt, #3307  Fort Mill, SC
Dexter Thomas Laughlin, #16120  Williamsburg, VA
Boyd Cecil Wilson, Jr., #15240  Lenoir, NC
Craig Martin Barfield, #16429  Elizabethtown, NC
John Russell Davison, #17903  Raleigh, NC
Julia Buie Everhart, #19836  High Point, NC
Tamera L. Gjesdal, #29574  Winston-Salem, NC
Rachel Elizabeth Hassler, #41768  Raleigh, NC
Gary Wayne Simpson, #19354  Marquette, MI
Rosalind B. Barker, #26900  Wilmington, NC
William Gordon Goodman, #11297  Salisbury, NC
Michael George Krueger, #43775  Westminster, CO
Robert Lawrence Marx, #13598  Charlotte, NC
Grayling Bennett Pruitt, #44115  Brentwood, TN
Mark Lloyd Whitley, #13610  Carolina Beach, NC
Phyllis Rigsby Bryan, #41721  Waynesville, NC
Denise Rayle Kelly, #21075  Greensboro, NC
Jerry Clint McKnight, #4338  Rocky Mount, NC
Alan Scot Wood, #14482  Mooresville, NC

Request for Inactive Status

A North Carolina CPA may request inactive status by submitting a form through the Board’s website, nccpaboard.gov.

To access the online form, click on the “Resources” tab, then click on “Request for Inactive Status.”

After completing and submitting the form, you will receive an email that summarizes the information you entered and notifies you that your request for inactive status has been approved.

Please allow at least ten business days for the Board’s database to reflect the change of status.
Notice of Address Change

Please Print Legibly

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<th>Last 4 Digits of SSN:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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Mail form to: PO Box 12827, Raleigh, NC 27605
Fax form to: (919) 733-4209

Pursuant to 21 NCAC 08J .0107, all certificate holders & CPA firms shall notify the Board in writing within 30 days of any change in home address & phone number; CPA firm address & phone number; business location & phone number; & email address.