

# Activity Review

North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners

1101 Oberlin Rd., Ste. 104 • PO Box 12827 • Raleigh, NC 27605 • 919-733-4222 • nccpaboard.gov • No. 6-2021

### 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

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:

- THIS CAUSE, coming before the North Carolina State | 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 therein 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 subjected 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.

### JAMES FREDRICK GRIFFIN, #8583 | RALEIGH, 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 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.
- 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:

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.
- 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:

 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**.

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Raleigh/Webex Mon. July 26 10:00 a.m.	Raleigh/Webex Mon. Aug. 23 10:00 a.m.	Raleigh/Webex Mon. Sept. 20 10:00 a.m.
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER

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.

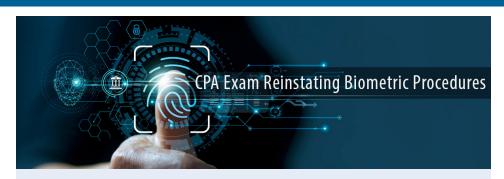
Under 21 NCAC 08N .0103, Responsibility for Compliance by Others, a CPA or CPA firm

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**.

	Application Post- marked on or before July 31, 2021	Application Post- marked on or after August 1, 2021
Administrative Fees		
Initial Exam Application	\$230.00	\$230.00
Re-Exam Application	\$75.00	\$75.00
Per-Section Fees		
AUD	\$224.99	\$226.15
BEC	\$224.99	\$226.15
FAR	\$224.99	\$226.15
REG	\$224.99	\$226.15

### 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

2021 Exam Score Release Dates		
If you take your exam on or before:	Your target score release date is:	
June 30, 2021	July 13, 2021	
July 23, 2021	August 10, 2021	
August 15, 2021	August 24, 2021	
September 7, 2021	September 15, 2021	
September 30, 2021	October 12, 2021	
October 23, 2021	November 9, 2021	
November 15, 2021	November 23, 2021	
December 8, 2021	December 16, 2021	
December 31, 2021	January 11, 2022	
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:

Hailey Madison Fretwell

Joshua Steven Abrahams Benjamin Bradshaw Adams Kyle Paul Albertelli Austin Matthew Baker Michael Seth Beam, IV Kyle Benjamin Beebe Mary Elizabeth Blair Cecilia Choto Blanco Haley Pace Boger Tiffany Pugh Brooks Mary Evelyn Brown Taylor Lauren Brown Zachary Eric Brown James Michael Burns Sarah Nicole Cacciabaudo McKenna Elizabeth Coker Carrie Cecile Culpepper

Stewart Pulliam Dula

Christopher Glen Foody

Jerry David Golub Nathaniel Caleb Goodman Matthew Joseph Griffith Brian Michael Hardin Clayton Russell Harris Ann Mebane Hine Daniel Ryan Hudson Christine Samatha Johnson Iryna Mykolaivna Kharlamova Rebecca Faith Kirk Chloe Jean Klingensmith Jillian Layne Logan LeeAnne Marie Lower Evan Scott Lucas James Joseph Mastrangelo Nicholas T. Matthews Natalia McNeill

Matthew James Mirabile Victoria Nicole Mitchner Johnathan Craig Modlin Matthew Thomas Morefield Krystyna Morozova Asaf Ravid Eileen Celeste Rose Jason Taylor Ruvio Tianxiang Shen Laura Lewis Shintay Margaret Mae Strickland Matthew Ryan Sullivan Yosef Gizaw Teffera William Alexander Thompson Noble Graham Vaughn Elliott S. Ventiere Mary Alice Walsh

Hannah Dickinson Weaver

**Tanner Henderson West** 

Dhwani Mehul Mehta

### LISA B. BARNETTE, #31615 | CHARLOTTE, NC

annual renewal.

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

- 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.

2018 CPE hours that she claimed on her 2019-2020

Per Section 3.20 of Session Law 2020-97, the North

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.

### North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners



#### Resolution

Whereas, the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners hired Jean Marie Small as a Professional Standards Specialist on May 1, 2013;

Whereas, during her tenure, Jean Marie Small faithfully and tirelessly served as a valuable employee of the Board, a mentor to other Board employees, and an advocate for the protection of the public and the best interests of the CPA profession;

Be It Therefore Resolved, the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners thanks Jean Marie Small for her service to the Board and offers best wishes to her on her retirement from the Board.

This the 24th day of May 2021.

North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners



Barton W. Baldwin, CPA President

### **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 Jennifer Ann Beck, #43927 Karen Bentley Duncan, #21318 John Anthony Iannotti, #28854 Michael Joseph Savino, #23801 Colleen Ann Wear, #30884 Amy Maliga Winstead, #24106 Stephen Wayne York, #23982 Susan McGrath, #40084 Laura Stokes Pritchard, #42042 William Edward Adkins, #8426 H. Parry Bliss, Jr., #7102 David William Keesee, #24582 Benjamin Richard Lahue, #41677 George Bayard Noxon, #15312 Ryan James Rate, #33109 Cory Joseph Hahn, #43144 Ann Louise Ledford, #19590 Fuquay-Varina, NC David Thomas Rieling, #27810 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 Harrisburg, NC Jesse Ray Boger, #16239 Stephen Garth Glauser, #43308 Dale Thomas Snider, #16555 Cynthia Martin, #16366 Greensboro, NC Sherry Angell Wescott, #23230 Manns Harbor, NC Statesville, NC Martha Vaughn Boyles, #15738 William Cody Howard, #44199 Grovetown, GA Kernersville, NC Anne Bradshaw Wrenn, #17845 Greensboro, NC Barry Dale Hartis, #8591

Douglas Allen Hunt, #3307

Dexter Thomas Laughlin, #16120

Knoxville, TN Boyd Cecil Wilson, Jr., #15240 Chattanooga, TN Craig Martin Barfield, #16429 Morganton, NC John Russell Davison, #17903 Julia Buie Everhart, #19836 Tysons, VA Durham, NC Tamera L. Gjesdal, #29574 New Bern, NC Rachel Elizabeth Hassler, #41768 Melbourne, FL Gary Wayne Simpson, #19354 Ellenboro, NC Rosalind B. Barker, #26900 Morehead City, NC William Gordon Goodman, #11297 Travelers Rest, SC Michael George Krueger, #43775 Hickory, NC Robert Lawrence Marx, #13598 New York, NY Grayling Bennett Pruitt, #44115 Chapel Hill, NC Mark Lloyd Whitley, #13610 Seattle, WA Phyllis Rigsby Bryan, #41721 Lewisville, NC Denise Rayle Kelly, #21075 Florham Park, NJ Jerry Clint McKnight, #4338 Indian Land, SC Alan Scot Wood, #14482

Lenoir, NC Elizabethtown, NC Raleigh, NC High Point, NC Winston-Salem, NC Raleigh, NC Marquette, MI Wilmington, NC Salisbury, NC Westminster, CO Charlotte, NC Brentwood, TN Carolina Beach, NC Waynesville, NC Greensboro, NC Rocky Mount, NC 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.

CANADA

Hobbs, NM

Fort Mill, SC

Williamsburg, VA



### State Board of CPA Examiners

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### **Notice of Address Change**

Please Print Legibly			
Full Name:			
Certificate No.:		Last 4 Digits of SSN:	
Home Address:			
City/State/Zip:			
Home Phone No:		Home Fax:	
Personal Email:			
Firm/Business Name:			
Business Address:			
City/State/Zip:			
Business Phone No:		Business Fax:	
Business Email:			
Signature:			
Date:	Send mail to:	☐ Home ☐ Business	
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.