

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE ACCOUNTING EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
GREGORY A. ANDERSON, :  
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 0006697**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 ACC 025

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Gregory A. Anderson  
P.O. Box 183  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Wisconsin Accounting Examining Board  
P.O. Box 8366  
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 7190  
Madison, WI 53707-7190

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Accounting Examining Board (Board). The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Gregory A. Anderson (DOB 6/16/1955) is certified and licensed by the State of Wisconsin as a certified public accountant, having credential number 6544-1, first issued on June 26, 1980 and current through December 14, 2019. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is P.O. Box 183, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220.

2. On December 23, 2016, the Department received an anonymous complaint alleging that Respondent was involved in a Ponzi Scheme that defrauded the public and was subject to the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) action. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance (Division) subsequently opened case number 16 ACC 025 for investigation.

3. On February 11, 2014 at 7:15 a.m., Respondent emailed Nickels to encourage him to contact his client "P.H." Respondent wrote to Nickels that P.H. "is retired, has a rental up north, and kind of buries her money in the usual no pay accounts/cds."

4. On March 27, 2014 at 7:20 a.m., Respondent emailed Nickels the following additional information regarding P.H., "she took \$ out of ira to do rental road fixup, etc...but she can take out other \$ and rollover into an ira note with fiscon with no issues taxwise."

5. On July 17, 2014 at 10:16 a.m., Respondent emailed Nickels to encourage him to contact his client "C.S." This email included a message that he had originally sent to C.S. which revealed that C.S. maintained "stocks, mutual funds, bonds, etc at morgan stanley."

6. On July 24, 2014 at 7:23 a.m., Respondent emailed Nickels and notified him that he had two new clients, "R.S." and "C.S.," and that both "have (and will soon have more) available funds to reinvest, as most are idle in low pay cds, money markets, etc." Respondent provided Nickels with the clients' email address and suggested that Nickels contact them.

7. On July 24, 2014 at 11:53 a.m., Respondent sent Nickels an email and requested that Nickels not "let on" that Respondent had shared R.S. and C.S.'s financial information with him.

8. On September 3, 2014 at 10:56 a.m., Respondent emailed Nickels regarding R.S. and C.S., and revealed that they had a large CD due later that week. Respondent indicated that R.S. planned to contact Nickels and reinvest some or all of the funds from the CD into eight promissory notes with Fiscal Concierge. In the same email, Respondent provided Nickels with R.S.'s social security number.

9. On September 25, 2014 at 7:16 a.m., Respondent emailed Nickels regarding his clients "J.G." and "C.G." Respondent encouraged Nickels to contact J.G. and C.G., and indicated that they had Roth IRA funds that could be invested into promissory notes with Fiscal Concierge.

10. On November 19, 2014, at 10:54 a.m., Respondent emailed Nickels and stated "you know I am throwing it out there to clients and contacts, but you also need to know that our profession has really tightened the screws on how much we can appear to pitch/endorse investments..."

11. Department records show that Respondent's certified public accountant credential was expired from December 15, 2015 through January 10, 2017.

12. On April 11, 2016, Respondent was identified on his employer's website as "Gregory A. Anderson, CPA, CFP."

13. Between April 8, 2016 and April 11, 2016, Respondent was listed as a CPA or Certified Public Accountant on several online directories.

14. On June 8, 2016, at an interview conducted as a part of DFI's investigation of Respondent, Respondent provided his business card to the DFI investigator. This card identified Respondent as a CPA, CFP. Both credentials were expired.

15. In resolution of this matter, Respondent does not admit and expressly denies each of the allegations set forth in the Findings of Facts; but does not wish to contest and consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Accounting Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 442.12, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § Accy 1.301(1) by disclosing confidential information obtained in the course of a professional engagement without the consent of the client.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § Accy 1.401(1) by committing an act discreditable to the profession.

4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Stat. §§ 442.03 and 442.07(1) by holding himself out as a certified public accountant and practicing as a certified public accountant while his license was expired.

5. As a result of the above violations, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 442.12(1)(b).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of Respondent Gregory A. Anderson's certified public accountant certificate and license (number 6544-1) is ACCEPTED.

3. This surrender constitutes Respondent Gregory A. Anderson's permanent relinquishment of his certified public accountant certificate and license and his right to practice as a certified public accountant in the state of Wisconsin. The Department will not, at any time in the future, process or otherwise consider an application or attempt at renewal by Respondent of credentials necessary to practice as a certified public accountant in the state of Wisconsin.

4. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN ACCOUNTING EXAMINING BOARD

by:

  
A Member of the Board

3-4-20  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE ACCOUNTING EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

GREGORY A. ANDERSON,  
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

**ORDER 0006697**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 ACC 025

Respondent Gregory A. Anderson and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance,  
Department of Safety and Professional Services, stipulate as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and as a result of parties wishing to resolve this matter through Stipulation but does not admit to the factual or legal allegations except that the Wisconsin Accounting Examining Board (Board) has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter detailed in the Final Decision and Order. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation for the purposes of this proceeding and any other proceedings brought by or on behalf of the Board.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
- the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondent;
- the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
- the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
- the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
- the right to petition for rehearing; and
- all other applicable rights afforded to Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation. Respondent is represented by Godfrey & Kahn, S.C., by and through Attorney Daniel J. Blinka.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Board. The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and


Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

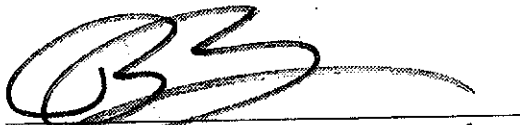
7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



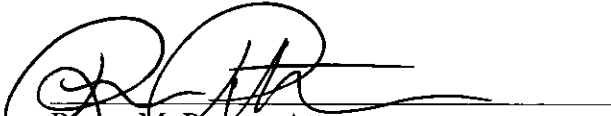
Gregory A. Anderson, Respondent  
P.O. Box 183  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
License no. 6544-1

11-23-19  
Date



Daniel J. Blinka, Attorney for Respondent  
Godfrey & Khan, S.C.  
833 E. Michigan Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

12/2/19  
Date



Renee M. Parlon, Attorney  
Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
P.O. Box 7190  
Madison, WI 53707-7190

12/2/2019  
Date