

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE ACCOUNTING EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

BETH M. BANT,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
: **ORDER 0006698**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 ACC 001

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

Beth M. Bant
Ogema, WI 54459

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 Beth M. Bant (Birth Year: 1982) is licensed and certified by the State of Wisconsin as a certified public accountant, having credential number 20655-1, first issued on September 23, 2005 and current through on December 14, 2021. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Ogema, Wisconsin 54459.

2. On February 1, 2017, the Department received a complaint from Respondent's former employer. Complainant alleged that, while Respondent was still an employee, she submitted fraudulent documents to obtain reimbursement funds from her employer. Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case Number 17 ACC 001 was subsequently opened for investigation. Complainant also filed a companion complaint against Respondent with the Wisconsin Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR) for the same conduct.

3. As part of the complaint the Department received on February 1, 2017, Complainant provided the fraudulent documentation that Respondent had submitted to Complainant to be reimbursed for a hotel stay in Madison, Wisconsin in June 2016.

4. Respondent did not stay in the hotel in June 2016.

5. As part of the complaint the Department received on February 1, 2017, Complainant also provided the fraudulent documentation that Respondent had submitted to Complainant to be reimbursed for a conference Respondent claimed to have attended in New Orleans, Louisiana in December 2016.

6. The conference actually occurred in November 2016; Respondent did not attend.

7. On February 17, 2017, in her response to the complaint, Respondent stated that she had repaid Complainant the amount it had reimbursed her for the hotel stay in June 2016 and the conference in December 2016.

8. On June 8, 2017, Respondent provided further information to the Department. Respondent claimed that she submitted the fraudulent document for her hotel stay in June 2016 because Complainant told her to submit it. Respondent could not substantiate this claim. Respondent also claimed that she submitted the fraudulent documentation for the conference in December 2016 because she feared losing her job. Respondent acknowledged her mistake in submitting the fraudulent documentation and does not wish to contest the matter.

9. On December 18, 2019, the Wisconsin Supreme Court filed its opinion (2019 WI 107) in Respondent's OLR matter. Respondent committed two (2) counts of misconduct. Respondent's law license was suspended for six (6) months, and Respondent is required to pay the full costs of that proceeding which are over \$10,000.

10. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consent 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 1.102(1) by knowingly misrepresenting facts.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondents violated Wis. Admin. Code § Accy 1.401(1) by committing acts that are discreditable to the profession.

4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § Accy 4.101(8) by engaging in conduct reflecting adversely upon the licensee's fitness to perform services, including conduct constituting incompetence.

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

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent Beth M. Bant's certification and license (number 20655-1) is **SUSPENDED** for six (6) months beginning ten (10) days from the date of this Order.
3. Respondent Beth M. Bant's certification and license (number 20655-1) is **LIMITED** as follows:
 - a. Within 90 days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete three (3) hours of education on the topic of professional ethics offered by a provider pre-approved by the Board's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses.
 - b. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Board or Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.
 - c. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's certification and license after satisfying the Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.
4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent Beth M. Bant shall pay the **COSTS** of this matter in the amount of \$1,004.
5. Proof of successful course completion and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

You may also submit this information online via the Department's Monitoring Case Management System at: <https://app.wi.gov/DSPSMonitoring>.

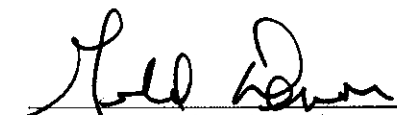
6. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's certification and license (number 20655-1), or Respondent's right to renew her certification and license, may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be **SUSPENDED**, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Board may, in addition and/or in

the alternative, refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.

7. 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

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

BETH M. BANT,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0006698

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 ACC 001

Respondent Beth M. Bant 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. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.
2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waive 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 her 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.
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Accounting Examining Board (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.



Beth M. Bant, Respondent
Ogema, WI 54459
Credential no. 20655-1

1-15-2020
Date



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

1-16-2020
Date