CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER BOARD OF STANDARDS, INC. CASE HISTORY 45112

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER BOARD OF STANDARDS, INC. WASHINGTON D.C.

IN THE MATTER OF
ANDREW C. GREZLAK

CFP Board Case No. 2023-64509

June 10, 2024

ORDER OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVOCATION

On April 30, 2024, pursuant to Article 4.2 of Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc.'s ("CFP Board") *Procedural Rules*, CFP Board's Enforcement Counsel ("Enforcement Counsel") filed a Motion for Order of Administrative Revocation ("Motion")¹ requesting that Counsel for the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission ("DEC Counsel") issue an Order of Administrative Revocation against Andrew C. Grezlak ("Respondent"). Because Respondent did not file a Response to Enforcement Counsel's Motion, Enforcement Counsel did not file a Reply.

For the reasons stated below, Enforcement Counsel's Motion is granted.

I. Background

Respondent became a CFP® professional on February 23, 2009. (Motion Ex. 1 ("Ex. 1") at 2.)

A. The Complaint

On December 5, 2023, Enforcement Counsel delivered by email and regular mail to Respondent's CFP Board addresses of record, and contemporaneously filed with the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission ("DEC") a Complaint pursuant to Article 3.1 of CFP Board's *Procedural Rules* for alleged violations of CFP Board's *Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct* ("Code and Standards"). (Id. at 5-11.) The Complaint included the following in its factual description of conduct and statement of alleged violations:

On November 8, 2022, Respondent's firm permitted Respondent to resign in lieu of termination due to a customer complaint.² (Ex. 1 at 9.)

On June 22, 2023, FINRA suspended Respondent for failing to respond to FINRA's requests for information regarding his termination from the firm. (*Id.*) On September 25, 2023, pursuant to FINRA Rule 9552(h) and in accordance with FINRA's Notice of

¹ The Motion, any response to or reply in support of the Motion, and any Exhibits to the Order are not subject to publication under Article 17.7 of the *Procedural Rules*.

² Though listed in the "Customer Dispute" section of Respondent's BrokerCheck report, this complaint was not filed by a customer, rather by Respondent's former spouse. The dispute concerned withdrawals from a family education fund and its status is reported as "Closed/No Action."

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Suspension Letter dated June 22, 2023, and its Suspension from Association Letter dated July 17, 2023, FINRA barred Respondent from association with any FINRA member firm in all capacities because Respondent failed to request termination of his suspension within three months of the date of the Notice of Suspension. (*Id.*)

Respondent's conduct implicates Standard A.8.a. of the *Code and Standards*, which provides that a CFP® professional must comply with the laws, rules, and regulations governing Professional Services, and Standard E.2. of the *Code and Standards*, which provides that a CFP® professional a CFP® professional may not engage in conduct that reflects adversely on his or her integrity or fitness as a CFP® professional, upon the CFP® marks, or upon the profession. (*Id.* at 9-10.)

Respondent's Answer was due on January 4, 2024.³

B. Respondent's Failure to Respond

Respondent did not file an Answer to the Complaint, or request an extension of time to do so, before the January 4, 2024 due date.

II. Discussion

If a Respondent fails to file an Answer in accordance with Article 3.2 of the *Procedural Rules*, then the Respondent is in default under Article 4.1. Respondent here failed to file an Answer to the Complaint on or before January 4, 2024, as required by Article 3.2. Enforcement Counsel filed the Motion based on its determination of the seriousness, scope, and harmfulness of Respondent's conduct, (Motion at 2), as required under Article 4.2 of the *Procedural Rules*.

III. Conclusion

DEC Counsel finds that Respondent is in default pursuant to Article 4.1.e. of the *Procedural Rules*, grants Enforcement Counsel's Motion, and issues this Order of Administrative Revocation ("Order") permanently revoking Respondent's right to use the CFP Board certification marks.

IV. Compliance with Order

Pursuant to Article 11.2 of the *Procedural Rules*, Respondent is required to submit to Enforcement Counsel, within 45 calendar days of issuance of this Order, written evidence that Respondent:

• Has advised Respondent's Firm(s), in writing, of this Order of Administrative Revocation in the manner set forth in Standard D.3 of the *Code and Standards*; and

³ The Motion incorrectly states that Respondent's Answer was due on December 5, 2023, the date the Complaint was filed.

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- Has advised all Clients (as Client is defined in the Glossary to the *Code and Standards*) of this Order of Administrative Revocation and provided all Clients the location of CFP Board's website that sets forth Respondent's disciplinary history in the manner set forth in Standard A.10 of the *Code and Standards*; and
- Will advise all future Clients of the location of CFP Board's website that sets forth Respondent's disciplinary history, according to Standard A.10 of the *Code and Standards*.

Pursuant to Article 11.3 of the *Procedural Rules*, within 45 calendar days from the date of this Order, or <u>July 25, 2024</u>, Respondent is required to submit to Enforcement Counsel, by sending an email to <u>discipline@cfpboard.org</u>, Respondent's statement of assurance that Respondent will not use the CFP Board certification marks and proof that Respondent has removed the CFP Board certification marks from all internet sites or other tangible materials that Respondent exposes to the public, including screenshots of the businesses, social media, and third-party financial advisor listing website profiles that Respondent controls, pictures of signage, and when applicable, copies of Respondent's business cards, letterhead, and marketing and promotional materials, as well as pictures of any other materials Respondent controls in which the CFP® marks previously appeared publicly in reference to Respondent or Respondent's services. Failure to do so may result in further disciplinary or legal action regarding the unauthorized use of the CFP Board certification marks.

Issued by:

Counsel to the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission

Date: June 10, 2024