

Candace Wood – License #535

Date: March 10, 2022

Violation:

Code of Alabama 1975, §34-8B-7 – The board shall promulgate rules necessary to implement and administer this chapter. The rules shall be adopted pursuant to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. The rules shall be published in the standards of professional practice and made available to all licensees.

Code of Alabama 1975, §34-8B-8 – After January 1, 2007, any person who undertakes or attempts to undertake the practice of court reporting for remuneration without first having procured a license, or who knowingly presents or files false information with the board for the purpose of obtaining a license or who violates this chapter shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. A person who is not licensed may not bring or maintain an action to recover fees for court reporting services that he or she performed in violation of this chapter. Whenever it appears to the board that any court reporter has violated this chapter, the board may, in its own name, petition the circuit court of the county in which the violation occurred to enjoin the violation.

Code of Alabama 1975, §34-8B-13 – Each person licensed pursuant to this chapter shall apply for renewal of his or her license pursuant to dates established by the board. A renewal fee in an amount determined by the board shall be paid and thereupon the board shall issue a numbered license establishing that the holder is entitled to practice court reporting for the period determined by the board. The board shall require specific continuing education as a condition for license renewal. The board may provide for the late renewal of a license which has lapsed and may require the payment of a late fee or an examination, or both, prior to issuing a renewal license. Licensees shall notify the board in writing of any change of address within 30 days of the change.

Alabama Board of Court Reporting Administrative Code, r. 257-X-5-.03 (1)(b) – The board may fine, suspend, revoke, or otherwise discipline any court reporter or deny an application for renewal or reinstatement of a court reporter's license upon proof that the person is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license by misrepresenting or falsifying facts in applying for original licensure, renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of a license.

Alabama Board of Court Reporting Administrative Code, r. 257-X-6-.01(1) – Beginning with the September 30, 2008, renewal, and every renewal thereafter, every licensee who applies for a renewal of a license shall complete five (5) hours of continuing education (CE) relevant to the practice of court reporting. Additional CE hours obtained may be rolled over to the next renewal for up to thirty-six (36) months.

Disposition:

Board and respondent entered into a consent order under which respondent acknowledged certifying that she had obtained the minimum number of CE hours required by the board, but did not, in fact, have the required CE hours for 2021-2022 or for the two preceding years. Respondent agreed to pay a fine in the amount of \$1,500 (\$500 per year of non-compliance with CE requirements) and to provide documentation of completion of 15 CE hours for the three years for which CE was lacking, as well as documentation of a board-approved three-hour course/program on Ethics in Court Reporting.

Paige Solley – License #358

Date: March 10, 2022

Violation:

Code of Alabama 1975, §34-8B-7 – The board shall promulgate rules necessary to implement and administer this chapter. The rules shall be adopted pursuant to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. The rules shall be published in the standards of professional practice and made available to all licensees.

Alabama Board of Court Reporting Administrative Code, r. 257-X-4-.01(g) – It is the licensee’s responsibility to preserve his/her shorthand notes and audio files (if any) for a period of no less than five (5) years, except as otherwise prescribed by law, e.g., the Alabama Unified Judicial System’s Records Retention Schedule for the Circuit, District, Juvenile and Municipal Courts, through storage of the audio files and the original paper notes or the English transcript of the notes on computer disks, cassettes, backup tape systems, or optical or laser disk systems.

Alabama Board of Court Reporting Administrative Code, r. 257-X-5-.04(1)(3)(b) – (1) Upon self-disclosure or receipt of a written complaint on an ABCR Consumer Complaint Form signed by the person making the complaint, alleging that a court reporter has violated a statute or rule by committing one or more of the actions specified as grounds for disciplinary action, the Executive Director shall perform a preliminary review of the facts stated to determine if a violation of the Board’s law or its rules may have occurred. The Consumer Complaint Form must be complete before an investigation is initiated. Complaints must be submitted to the Board within ninety (90) days of the alleged occurrence. (3) When the Executive Director determines that there may be merit and sufficient evidence to warrant an investigation, and investigative committee shall be formed, consisting of one (1) Board member, Board counsel, and the Executive Director. 3(b) The committee shall review the complaint and other information submitted to determine if further investigation is warranted.

Disposition:

Board and respondent entered into a consent order under which respondent acknowledged having been unable to produce a transcript for a hearing conducted in Limestone County Circuit Court on September 8, 2021, necessitating a rehearing on the case in question that was conducted on October 26, 2021. Respondent agreed to pay a fine in the amount of \$500, to provide documentation of completion of five (5) CE hours that address technical aspects of computer-integrated real time reporting, transcription and/or related technology, and to demonstrate to the board she possesses or has obtained technology sufficient to maintain back-up steno notes to ensure the machine used is backing up the steno as she is writing on her paper, and for preservation of all reported material in compliance with the board’s minimum requirements.

Tammy Hastings-Petrone – License #122

Date: March 10, 2022

Violation:

Code of Alabama 1975, §34-8B-7 - The board shall promulgate rules necessary to implement and administer this chapter. The rules shall be adopted pursuant to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. The rules shall be published in the standards of professional practice and made available to all licensees.

Alabama Board of Court Reporting Administrative Code, r. 257-X-4-.01(c) – A licensee, if requested, shall provide information regarding services to be rendered regarding administration of professional services to all parties. The licensee must strive to meet promised delivery dates whenever possible, make timely delivery of transcripts when no date is specified, and provide immediate notification of delays.

Disposition:

Board and respondent entered into a consent order under which respondent acknowledged failure to provide timely a transcript in a case before the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals as specified in a Contempt Order issued by the Court. Respondent agreed to pay a fine in the amount of \$1,000, to provide documentation of completion of 25 hours of CE that address topics related to time management, Zoom/remote reporting, personal development, e.g., motivation and overcoming obstacles and ethics in court reporting, and to a suspension of licensure for a period of six months from the effective date of the Order of March 10, 2022, through September 9, 2022.

Carol Cook – License #253

Date: March 10, 2022

Violation:

Code of Alabama 1975, 34-8B-8 – After January 1, 2007, any person who undertakes or attempts to undertake the practice of court reporting for remuneration without first having procured a license, or who knowingly presents of files false information with the board for the purpose of obtaining a license or who violates this chapter shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. A person who is not licensed may not bring or maintain an action to recover fees for court reporting services that he or she performed in violation of this chapter. Whenever it appears to the board that any court reporter has violated this chapter, the board may, in its own name, petition the circuit court of the county in which the violation occurred to enjoin the violation.

Alabama Board of Court Reporting Administrative Code, r. 257-X-4-.01(j) – A licensee’s signature, license number, and expiration date, and the date the transcript was certified shall be affixed to a transcript of his/her stenographic notes to certify to its correctness if the transcript has been prepared by him/her or under his/her direct supervision.

Alabama Board of Court Reporting Administrative Code, r. 257-X-5-.04 (3) – When the Executive Director determines there may be merit and sufficient evidence to warrant an investigation, an investigative committee shall be formed, consisting of one (1) Board member, Board counsel, and the Executive Director.

Disposition:

Board and respondent entered into a consent order under which respondent acknowledged that her license expired on September 30, 2022, due to failure to renew timely, respondent did not respond to reminders regarding her failure to renew dated October 6, 2021, November 8, 2021, and November 22, 2021, a letter dated December 1, 2021, sent certified mail, return receipt requested, to respondent’s address on file with the board advising respondent that her license had expired was returned undeliverable and unable to forward due to respondent’s failure to advise the board timely of a change of address as required by the Rules & Regulations, that while unlicensed respondent certified a transcript falsely showing her license expiration date as September 30, 2022, that respondent performed a number of jobs after September 30, 2021, while she was unlicensed and thereby ineligible to practice. Respondent agreed to pay a fine of \$6,500, provide documentation of completion of five (5) CE hours that address ethics in court reporting, immediately provide all court reporting firms with which she is affiliated as an employee or independent contractor with a copy of the Order and cause each to acknowledge that a copy of the Order has been provided, provide written notice, in a form provided by the board, to all attorneys or other entities in Alabama for which Respondent provided court reporting services for remuneration without a current license from the board. The board agreed to a reinstatement of licensure, with such licensure suspended, until completion by respondent of the preceding requirements.