

BEFORE THE ACCOUNTANCY EXAMINING BOARD OF THE STATE OF IOWA

IN THE MATTER OF Benita Holmes License No. 014865 RESPONDENT	CASE NO.: 24-32 COMBINED STATEMENT OF CHARGES, SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND FINAL ORDER
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COME NOW the Iowa Accountancy Examining Board (“Board”) and Benita Holmes (“Respondent”), and enter into this combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement and Final Order (“Order”) pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10(2), 272C.3(4), and 272C.10 and Iowa Administrative Code 193A.

A. BACKGROUND

1. **Iowa License.** Respondent was issued Iowa certified public accountant (CPA) license 014865 on July 1, 2020. Respondents license next expires on June 30, 2025.
2. **Practice Setting.** Respondent is an Iowa licensed CPA working in Dubuque, Iowa during the time period relevant to these allegations. Respondent currently lives in the State of Iowa.
3. **Jurisdiction.** The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 542.
4. **Allegations.** Respondent is charged with failing to meet the continuing education requirements.

B. STATEMENT OF CHARGES

COUNT I

5. Respondent is charged under Iowa Code section 542.6(2) and Iowa Administrative Code 193A-14.3(5)(a) with practicing with a lack of proper qualifications due to failure to satisfy the continuing education requirements.

C. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

6. Respondent acknowledges that the allegations in the Statement of Charges, if proven in a contested case hearing, would constitute grounds for the discipline agreed to in this Order.

7. To resolve this matter without proceeding to hearing, Respondent agrees to the following conditions:

- a. Respondent will pay a \$250 civil penalty.
 - b. Respondent will complete 2 hours of continuing education.
8. In entering this Order, Respondent acknowledges the following:
- a. This Order is subject to the approval of the Board and will have no force or effect if it is not accepted by the Board.
 - b. Counsel for the State will present this Order to the Board *ex parte*.
 - c. I have the right to be represented by counsel in this matter.
 - d. I understand I have an opportunity to be heard and to contest the allegations against me in a formal hearing before the Board and that, by waiving the formal hearing, I waive my right to challenge the allegations against me and all attendant rights, including the right to seek judicial review of the Board's actions.
 - e. I waive my ability to review the investigative file in this case.
 - f. I understand this Order will be part of my permanent licensure file and may be considered by the Board in determining the nature and severity of any disciplinary action to be imposed in the event of any future violations.
 - g. I am voluntarily entering into this Order.
 - h. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Order shall be grounds for further

disciplinary action pursuant to Iowa Code § 272C.3(2)(a).

i. I understand the Board is required by federal law to report this Order to the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. The report to the database will reflect the language included in this Order.

j. I understand I am responsible for all expenses incurred to comply with the conditions and requirements of this Order.

12. Respondent shall submit a copy of this Order to all licensing boards where Respondent holds a license, whether active or not, within **THIRTY days** of the date of the Board approval of this Order.

13. This Order constitutes discipline against Respondent pursuant to and in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code rule 193A—15 and subject to Iowa Administrative Code rule 193A—14.1, is the final agency action in a contested case pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.10 and Iowa Administrative Code rule 193A—16.3.

14. This Order shall not preclude the Board from taking additional action against Respondent should Respondent violate laws, rules, or standards of practice administered by the Board in the future.

15. This Order becomes a public record available for inspection and copying upon execution in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code Chapters 17A, 22, and 272C.

16. The Board's approval of this Order shall constitute a **Final Order** of the Board.

D. FINAL ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

A. PROBATION OR ALTERNATIVE SANCTION OTHER: Respondent will

pay a \$250 civil penalty and complete 2 hours of continuing education.

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by Benita Holmes on this 19 day of May, 2025.



Benita Holmes May 19, 2025 15:30 CDT

By: Benita Holmes, Respondent

FOR THE IOWA ACCOUNTANCY EXAMINING BOARD:

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by the **IOWA ACCOUNTANCY EXAMINING BOARD** on this 28th day of May, 2025.



Jessica Richter, CPA, Chairperson
Iowa Accountancy Examining Board