



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION
FOR THE ATHLETIC TRAINER

Be Certain.™

Christopher Patterson

Abilene, TX

March 15, 2016

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Mr. Patterson:

Please be advised that the Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) Professional Practice and Discipline Committee (Committee) has rendered the following decision with respect to the charge that you violated Code 3.11 of the *Code of Professional Responsibility* (COPR) section of the *BOC Standards of Professional Practice*.

In a Charge letter dated December 8, 2015, the BOC informed you that the Committee had determined that good cause existed to believe that you have violated Code 3.11 of the COPR section of the BOC Standards of Professional Practice based on the fact you pled guilty to Improper Relationship Between Educator/Student (21.12), a 2nd Degree Felony, and were sentenced to two (2) years in prison.

The Committee deliberated March 14, 2016.

Factual Findings

1. February 24, 2014, the BOC received a news article stating you had been arrested and charged with Improper Relationship between educator and student, a second degree felony.
2. March 10, 2014, the BOC received a copy of the LAW Incident Table from Conroe Police Department.
3. May 16, 2014, the BOC mailed you an Investigation Notice giving you 15 days to provide additional information, documentation and/or comments. The BOC did not receive a response from you.
4. July 9, 2014, the BOC mailed you an Emergency Suspension Notice via Certified Mail.
5. August 4, 2014, the BOC received the Emergency Suspension Notice back from the Post Office as Return to Sender/No Mail Receptacle/Unable to Forward. The BOC sent you an email and called and left you a message requesting you to update your contact information with us. The BOC did not receive a response from you.
6. August 18, 2014, the BOC received a news article stating you had been indicted by a grand jury.
7. The BOC received a copy of the Judgment of Conviction by Court – Waive of Jury Trial from the 359th District Court, Montgomery County TX stating you were sentenced to two (2) years in prison.
8. November 2, 2015, the BOC mailed you a Consent Agreement for suspension of your certification as a resolution. This was mailed via Certified Mail and was signed for as received on November 5, 2015 by A Payne. The BOC did not receive a response from you.
9. December 8, 2015 the BOC mailed you a Charge Letter. This was mailed via Certified Mail and was signed for as received on December 14, 2015 by Alana Carver.
10. December 28, 2015, the BOC received a written response from you stating you are due to be released April 2016 and would like to plead your case at a formal hearing.
11. January 8, 2016, the BOC responded to you in writing stating, "The BOC is taking the position that a guilty plea is an admission of guilt and therefore you are not entitled to a hearing per our policies." The BOC invited you to submit any additional statements or defenses in writing for the Committee to re-review with your case.

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION
1415 Harney Street, Suite 200
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

O (402) 559-0091
F (402) 561-0598
www.bocatc.org

12. February 2, 2016, you responded in writing to the BOC stating, "...I was neither an educator nor was I employed by any school district. In addition to submitting my official statement I will also be exercising my right to petition for the reinstatement of my certification..."
13. March 14, 2016, the Committee deliberated your case.

Conclusions

The Committee determined that pleading guilty to a felony is a violation of Code 3.11 of the COPR section of the BOC Standards of Professional Practice:

Code 3.11: Does not take any action that leads, or may lead, to the conviction, plea of guilty or plea of nolo contendere (no contest) to any felony or to a misdemeanor related to public health, patient care, athletics or education; this includes, but is not limited to: rape; sexual abuse of a child or patient; actual or threatened use of a weapon of violence; the prohibited sale or distribution of controlled substance, or its possession with the intent to distribute; or the use of the position of an Athletic Trainer to improperly influence the outcome or score of an athletic contest or event or in connection with any gambling activity

As a result, the Committee has issued the following sanctions regarding your certification:

Your certification status is considered Suspended. Suspension of a BOC certification is considered public information and may be published or otherwise disclosed by the BOC. Pursuant to Section 10 of the BOC Guidelines, upon execution of this Decision Letter, you are required to return by traceable mail your BOC certification card to the BOC office within 10 calendar days. Further, while your certification is Suspended, you are not authorized to do the following:

1. Represent yourself to the public as a practicing Certified Athletic Trainer or use the certification marks "ATC" or C.A.T." following your name; or
2. Serve as an item writer for the BOC certification exam; or
3. Serve as a supervisor of students who are satisfying the athletic training requirements for certification eligibility.

Your certification status will remain Suspended until the end of your prison sentence. Any request for reinstatement of certification must be reviewed by a Reinstatement Panel.

Mr. Patterson, this matter will remain a part of your BOC certification file and may be used for the purpose of determining sanctions in any future matters that come before the BOC Professional Practice and Discipline Committee or other Disciplinary Panels. You have the right to appeal a decision made by the Committee. An appeal must be received by the BOC within thirty (30) days of receipt of this decision. The appeal must be written and addressed to the BOC Executive Director. For details regarding the appeal process, please see the enclosed procedures.

Sincerely,



Shannon Leftwich, MA, ATC
Director of Credentialing and Regulatory Affairs

cc: BOC Professional Practice and Discipline Committee
BOC Counsel
Texas Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers

Enclosures: *BOC Standards of Professional Practice*
Professional Practice and Discipline Guidelines and Procedures