



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE ATHLETIC TRAINER

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

August 31, 2016

April K Collins

Odessa, TX

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Ms. Collins:

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 June 22, 2016, 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 that, on or about April 1, 2016, you pled guilty to Improper Relationship between Educator and Student, a Felony, and were sentenced to three (3) years Community Supervision to include:

1. Defendant shall submit to and successfully complete Drug and Alcohol Evaluation, Counseling, or Treatment as directed by the Community Supervisor Officer
2. Defendant shall not communicate directly or indirectly with, victim, or go near the residence of victim, or the business of victim, or the school day-care facility, or similar facility of victim, or where a dependent child of the victim, is in attendance. Respondent shall not go within 100 yards of victim or victim's residence.
3. The Ector County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, Sex Offender Caseload Officer (s), or any Community Supervision Officer authorized and approved by the Director may arrest the defendant with or without a warrant for any violation of probation that occurs in the presence of each Office or arrest the defendant on any warrant issued by the Court. This authorization to arrest by order of the Judge is noted on the docket of the Court.
4. Defendant shall submit his/her person, vehicle, workplace, or residence and its curtilage to a search whenever requested to do so by any Community Supervision Officer or any Commissioned Peace Officer who has reasonable suspicion of a violation of the Probationer's rules and conditions of Community Supervision or a violation of the law.
5. Defendant must permanently surrender her teaching certificate and/or teaching license within 30 days from date of the plea.

**Factual Findings**

1. Beginning April 10, 2013, the BOC received news articles stating you had been charged with Improper Relationship Between Educator and Student (F2).
2. August 28, 2013, the BOC received a copy of the Indictment from the Ector County, Texas, 244<sup>th</sup> Judicial District stating you had been indicted on Counts I, II, III, and IV: Improper Relationship Between Educator and Student (F2).
3. September 4, 2013, the BOC mailed you a Certified letter containing an Investigation Notice & Emergency Suspension Order. September 7, 2013, the letter was signed for as received by Gene Collins. The BOC did not receive a response from you.

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4. May 4, 2016, the BOC received a copy of the Order of Deferred Adjudication; Placement on Community Supervision from the Ector County, Texas, 244<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.
5. May 18, 2016, the BOC mailed you a Certified letter containing a Consent Agreement for suspension of your certification as a resolution. May 21, 2016, the letter was signed for as received by Joann Collins. The BOC did not receive a response from you.
6. June 22, 2016, the BOC mailed you a Certified letter containing a Charge letter. The BOC received proof from the Post Office stating June 25, 2016 at 9:39am, the letter was delivered and left with an individual. The BOC did not receive a response from you.

### Conclusions

The Committee has determined that these actions violate 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. Respondent's certification is Suspended. As a result, the Respondent is not authorized to do the following:

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

Respondent may petition for reinstatement after suspension in accordance with Section 12 of the BOC Discipline Procedures. Such petition may be brought by Respondent no sooner than the completion of Respondent's sentence of three (3) years of Community Supervision.

Ms. Collins, 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