



September 15, 2020

Steven L Stepp

████████████████████
Atlanta, GA ██████

Dear Steven:

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 3.2 of the Code of Professional Responsibility (COPR) section of the *BOC Standards of Professional Practice*.

In a Charge letter dated July 23, 2020, the BOC informed you that the Committee had determined that good cause existed to believe that you have violated Code 3.2 of the COPR section of the BOC Standards of Professional Practice based on the fact that September 3, 2019, you entered into a Public Consent Order with the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers that stated despite not being licensed as a physical therapist, Respondent provided treatment to patients who were referred to him by physicians for physical therapy evaluation and treatment. Providing said treatment is outside the scope of Respondent's practice as a Georgia licensed athletic trainer. The Respondent's conduct was sufficient grounds for imposition of sanctions and/or conditions upon Respondent's license to practice as an athletic trainer license in the State of Georgia, under O.C.G.A Title 43, Chapter 5 and §43-1-19. As a result, Respondent's license was placed upon probation for a period of one year and subject terms and conditions as outlined in the Public Consent Order.

Factual Findings

1. March 12, 2020, the BOC received a copy of the Public Consent Order Respondent entered into with the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers September 3, 2019 stating despite not being licensed as a physical therapist, he provided treatment to patients who were referred to him by physicians for physical therapy evaluation and treatment. Providing said treatment is outside the scope of practice as a Georgia licensed athletic trainer. Your conduct was sufficient grounds for imposition of sanctions and/or conditions upon your license to practice as an athletic trainer license in the State of Georgia, under O.C.G.A Title 43, Chapter 5 and §43-1-19. As a result, your license was placed upon probation for a period of one year and subject terms and conditions as outlined in the Public Consent Order.
2. March 13, 2020, the BOC sent you an Investigation Notice electronically via Eversign
3. March 17, 2020, you provided a written response to the Investigation Notice.
4. May 11, 2020, the Committee reviewed your case and decided, as a resolution, to propose a Consent Agreement that included a public censure, ethics course and one (1) year of probation.
5. May 13, 2020, the BOC sent you a Consent Agreement electronically via Eversign that included as public censure, ethics course and one (1) year of probation, as a resolution.
6. June 2, 2020, via Eversign, you declined the Consent Agreement stating, "Requesting meeting with the Board please. Need to express additional thoughts."
7. July 23, 2020, the BOC sent you a Charge letter electronically via Eversign.
8. July 24, 2020, you signed the document electronically via Eversign and requested a hearing. The BOC explained via email that you are not eligible for a hearing as you entered a Consent Order with Georgia admitting guilt.
9. August 20, 2020, you provided a written response for the Committee to review and decide the outcome of your case based on your response.
10. September 14, 2020, the Committee re-reviewed your case.



Conclusions

The Committee determined that the facts above are valid and that such actions violate Code 3.2 of the COPR section of the BOC Standards of Professional Practice:

Code 3.2: The Athletic Trainer Practices in accordance with applicable local, state and/or federal rules, requirements, regulations and/or laws related to the practice of athletic training.

As a result, your certification status is considered Certified. The Committee has issued the following sanctions regarding your certification:

1. You have been issued a Public Censure. It is standard procedure to publish public censures.
2. Your certification has been placed on probation for a period of one (1) year. Your certification is considered to be in good standing insofar as you incur no criminal charges or convictions and disciplinary actions related to the practice of athletic training and verifies this fact in writing to the Committee no earlier than November 1 and no later than November 30, 2021.
3. No later than December 31, 2020, you must provide proof of completion of a course in professional ethics administered by a BOC Approved Provider. Such course may be a live or home study course.

Steven, 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 Chief Executive Officer. For details regarding the appeal process, please see the enclosed procedures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shannon Fleming'.

Shannon Fleming, MA, AT Ret.
Director of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

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

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