

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND REGULATION  
BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**

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**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**BRUCE E. HANSON,  
Licensee.**

**Certificate No. 1319**

**FINDINGS OF FACT,  
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW,  
AND DECISION**

**Case No. 106-23**

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An administrative hearing was held by video conference before the Board of Accountancy (Board) on April 26, 2023. Gerald McCabe, Senior Staff Attorney, appeared and represented the Board office. Nicole Kasin, Executive Director, appeared and testified as a witness for the Board office. There was no appearance by the licensee, Bruce E. Hanson. Amber Mulder, Special Assistant Attorney General, appeared and advised the Board. Based on the licensee's failure to appear at the hearing, this matter proceeded pursuant to SDCL 36-20B-49.

Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the Board makes the following:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. BRUCE E. HANSON (HANSON) is a certified public accountant (CPA) with the Board. HANSON has been certified since February 1, 1988 and his certificate number is 1319.
2. As a licensee of the Board, HANSON is required to report his continuing professional education (CPE) to the Board in accordance with Board requirements.
3. For the period commencing July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, HANSON reported 25.5 CPE hours.
4. For the period commencing July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, HANSON reported 41 CPE hours.
5. For the period commencing July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, HANSON reported 60.5 CPE hours.
6. On September 16, 2022, the Board office mailed to HANSON a letter notifying him that he was selected for a CPE audit for the three-year renewal period commencing July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. The letter informed HANSON that his deadline to submit documentation to verify his claimed CPE was October 31, 2022.
7. HANSON did not submit any CPE documentation to the Board office by October 31, 2022.

8. On November 4, 2022, the Board office mailed to HANSON, at his address on file with the Board, a certified letter inquiring about his failure to submit the required CPE documentation for the audit. The letter also informed HANSON that he had 10 additional days to submit the requested documentation.
9. The Board office did not receive any response from HANSON within 30 days of the date of the certified letter.
10. On December 20, 2022, the Board office initiated a Formal Complaint against HANSON.
11. On January 31, 2023, HANSON sent an email to the Board office with appropriate documentation for 53.5 CPE hours for the reporting year ending June 30, 2022.
12. HANSON also provided documentation for 7 additional CPE hours for the reporting year ending June 30, 2022. This documentation included an unsigned "Non-Sponsor CPE Verification" form and a conference agenda for the South Dakota Bankers Association 2021 Bank Technology Conference on September 8-9, 2021.
13. The documentation provided by HANSON for the conference did not include any independent documentation to demonstrate that he attended the course and specifically did not include any certificate of attendance or completion.
14. The documentation provided does not demonstrate that HANSON attended the conference and these 7 hours do not meet the requirements to be considered CPE hours.
15. Based on the information provided by HANSON on January 31, 2023, HANSON documented:
  - a. No CPE hours for the reporting year ending June 30, 2020,
  - b. No CPE hours for the reporting year ending June 30, 2021, and
  - c. 53.5 CPE hours for the reporting year ending June 30, 2022.
16. For the three-year period ending June 30, 2020, HANSON has 102.5 CPE hours of the required 120 CPE hours.
17. For the three-year period ending June 30, 2021, HANSON has 55 CPE hours of the required 120 CPE hours.
18. For the three-year period ending June 30, 2022, HANSON has 53.5 CPE hours of the required 120 CPE hours.
19. The Board previously revoked HANSON's certificate on October 13, 2006 for his failure to comply with certificate renewal requirements. HANSON's certificate was subsequently reinstated on May 31, 2011.

Based on the above findings of fact, the Board makes the following:

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

20. The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, Board of Accountancy (Board) has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 36-20B.
21. ARSD 20:75:04:11 requires Board licensees to submit to verification of their continuing professional education (CPE) credits claimed during a reporting period, which includes cooperating with random audits.
22. ARSD 20:75:04:14 and 20:75:04:15 require Board licensees to document their CPE credits.
23. ARSD 20:75:05:16 requires Board licensees to respond to communications from the Board, when requested, within 30 days after the mailing of the communication by registered or certified mail to the licensee's address on record with the Board.
24. SDCL 36-20B-27 requires a licensed CPA to complete 120 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) in each three-year renewal cycle.
25. SDCL 36-20B-40(3) authorizes the Board to impose discipline upon a licensee for "failure to maintain compliance with the requirements for issuance or renewal of such license".
26. SDCL 36-20B-40(6) authorizes the Board to impose discipline upon a licensee for a violation "of any provision of this chapter or rule, promulgated by the board pursuant to chapter 1-26, or violation of professional standards".
27. SDCL 1-26-29.1 authorizes the Board to impose the actual expenses of this proceeding upon the licensee if the hearing results in discipline.


Based on the above conclusions of law, the Board makes the following:

### DECISION

1. HANSON's CPA license shall be **SUSPENDED** for a period of no less than **90 days** effective immediately.
2. Following his immediate 90-day suspension, HANSON's CPA license shall remain **SUSPENDED** unless and until he provides proof to the Board office that he has returned to CPE compliance. To return to compliance, HANSON shall complete and provide proof of completion to the Board office of 66.5 hours of CPE. The Board office staff are authorized to allocate hours and grant extensions for CPE credit consistent with Board policy. Upon returning to CPE compliance, HANSON's CPA license shall be immediately reinstated without further Board order which shall be effective upon the Board office serving written notice to HANSON of his reinstatement.

3. HANSON shall pay a fine of **\$1,000** to the Board office within 30 days.
4. HANSON shall submit proof of completion for all claimed CPE courses for each reporting year to the Board office by August 1 for each of the three years following reinstatement.
5. HANSON shall be ineligible for any CPE extensions for the reporting periods ending in each of the three years following reinstatement.
6. Pursuant to SDCL 1-26-29.1, HANSON shall pay the actual expenses of the Board office in conducting this hearing. The Board office shall serve upon HANSON an affidavit outlining the costs within 14 days of the hearing. After service of the affidavit, HANSON shall pay the costs within 30 days.
7. This decision shall be effective upon signing by the Board Chair.

Dated the 28 day of April 2023.

  
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Deidre Budahl  
Board Chair

NOTICE: This is the final decision in this matter unless you appeal in one of two ways:

- (1) A written request is sent to the Board Office (301 East 14th Street, Suite 200, Sioux Falls, SD 57104) within 30 days of the date of this decision explaining why you failed to appear at the hearing and defend against the complaint, OR
- (2) The decision is appealed directly to circuit court within 30 days after the date of this decision. SDCL 36-20B-49; 36-20B-50; and 1-26-31.