

MAR 23 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING,  
LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE  
AND INTERIOR DESIGN

In the matter of  
Bruce Bissonnette, Architect  
License Number 23532

STIPULATION AND ORDER

Board File No. 2009-0025

TO: Mr. Bruce Bissonnette  
3748 Hilltop Road  
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305

The Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design ("Board") is authorized pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 214.10 (2008) and Minnesota Statutes section 326.111 (2008) to review complaints against architects, professional engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, geoscientists, and certified interior designers, and to take disciplinary action whenever appropriate.

The Board received information concerning Bruce Bissonnette ("Respondent"). The Board's Complaint Committee ("Committee") reviewed the information. The parties have agreed that the matter may now be resolved by this Stipulation and Order.

STIPULATION

IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between Respondent and the Committee as follows:

1. Jurisdiction. The Respondent has held a license to practice Architecture from the Board since September 19, 1994. Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the

Board with respect to the matters referred to in this Stipulation.

2. Facts. This Stipulation is based upon the following facts:

a. Respondent was first licensed to practice Architecture in the State of Minnesota on September 19, 1994.

b. On June 9, 2008, Respondent renewed his license to practice Architecture in the State of Minnesota on-line.

c. On June 9, 2008, Respondent affirmed twenty four (24) Professional Development Hour's (PDH's) earned from 07/01/2006 thru 06/30/2008. Respondent affirmed twelve (12) carry over hours for the period of 07/01/2004 thru 06/30/2006. In order to continue the on-line renewal process, it asks the licensee, "I swear or affirm that I have read the foregoing renewal application and continuing education reporting screens and that the statements are true and complete." The next step to complete is a box to click that states, "I accept." Additionally it states, "(You must check this box to continue)." Respondent clicked on the box to continue as his renewal application was processed on June 10, 2008.

d. In a letter dated September 19, 2008, Respondent admits that "At the time I sent in my renewal on 6/9/08 I was still nine credit hours short. It was my intention to complete the remaining nine hours before the deadline. I did not finish the required hours by June 30<sup>th</sup>." A true and correct copy of the September 19, 2008 letter is attached as Exhibit A.

e. Respondent states that he purchased eighteen (18) PDH's on

1/29/08. A true and correct copy of the September 19, 2008 letter is attached as Exhibit A.

f. Respondent provided confirmation of the courses completed in September 2008 to remedy the nine (9) PDH's he was short. Of the eighteen (18) hours Respondent purchased on 1/29/08, fifteen (15) hours were completed in September 2008. A true and correct confirmation copy of each course completed in September 2008 is attached as Exhibit B.

g. In a letter dated December 30, 2008, Respondent admits "I renewed on line in early June with the intention of completing the credits before the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. As I stated in my 9/19 letter, I did not make it." A true and correct copy of the December 30, 2008 letter is attached as Exhibit C.

3. Violations. Respondent admits that the facts specified above constitute violations of Minnesota Statutes section 326.111, subdivisions 4 (a) (1), (5) and (8) (2008) and Minnesota Rules 1805.0200, subparts 2 and 4 (C) (2007) and are sufficient grounds for the action specified below.

4. Enforcement Action. Respondent and the Committee agree that the Board should issue an Order in accordance with the following terms:

- a. Reprimand. Respondent is reprimanded for the foregoing conduct.
- b. Civil Penalty. Respondent shall pay to the Board a civil penalty of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00). Respondent shall submit a civil penalty of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) by cashier's check or money

order to the Board within sixty (60) days of the Board's approval of this Stipulation and Order.

5. Additional Discipline for Violations of Order. If Respondent violates this Stipulation and Order, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 326 (2008), or Minnesota Rules Chapter 1800 (2007) or Minnesota Rules Chapter 1805 (2007), the Board may impose additional discipline pursuant to the following procedure:

a. The Committee shall schedule a hearing before the Board. At least thirty days prior to the hearing, the Committee shall mail Respondent a notice of the violation alleged by the Committee and of the time and place of the hearing. Within fourteen days after the notice is mailed, Respondent shall submit a response to the allegations. If Respondent does not submit a timely response to the Board, the allegations may be deemed admitted.

b. At the hearing before the Board, the Complaint Committee and Respondent may submit affidavits made on personal knowledge and argument based on the record in support of their positions. The evidentiary record before the Board shall be limited to such affidavits and this Stipulation and Order. Respondent waives a hearing before an administrative law judge and waives discovery, cross-examination of adverse witnesses, and other procedures governing administrative hearings or civil trials.

c. At the hearing, the Board will determine whether to impose additional disciplinary action, including additional conditions or limitations on Respondent's practice or suspension or revocation of Respondent's license.

6. Waiver of Respondent's Rights. For the purpose of this Stipulation, Respondent waives all procedures and proceedings before the Board to which Respondent may be entitled under the Minnesota and United States constitutions, statutes, or the rules of the Board, including the right to dispute the allegations against Respondent, to dispute the appropriateness of discipline in a contested case proceeding pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14 (2008), and to dispute the civil penalty imposed by this Agreement. Respondent agrees that upon the application of the Committee without notice to or an appearance by Respondent, the Board may issue an Order containing the enforcement action specified in paragraph 4 herein. Respondent waives the right to any judicial review of the Order by appeal, writ of certiorari, or otherwise.

7. Collection. In accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 16D.17 (2008), in the event this order becomes final and Respondent does not comply with the condition in paragraph 4(b) above, Respondent agrees that the Board may file and enforce the unpaid portion of the civil penalty as a judgment without further notice or additional proceedings.

8. Board Rejection of Stipulation and Order. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this Stipulation and Order or a lesser remedy than specified herein, this Stipulation and Order shall be null and void and shall not be used for any purpose by either party hereto. If this Stipulation is not approved and a contested case proceeding is initiated pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14 (2008), Respondent agrees not to object to the Board's initiation of the proceedings and hearing the case on

the basis that the Board has become disqualified due to its review and consideration of this Stipulation and the record.

9. Unrelated Violations. This settlement shall not in any way or manner limit or affect the authority of the Board to proceed against Respondent by initiating a contested case hearing or by other appropriate means on the basis of any act, conduct, or admission of Respondent justifying disciplinary action which occurred before or after the date of this Stipulation and Order and which is not directly related to the specific facts and circumstances set forth herein.

10. Record. The Stipulation, related investigative reports and other documents shall constitute the entire record of the proceedings herein upon which the Order is based. The investigative reports, other documents, or summaries thereof may be filed with the Board with this Stipulation.

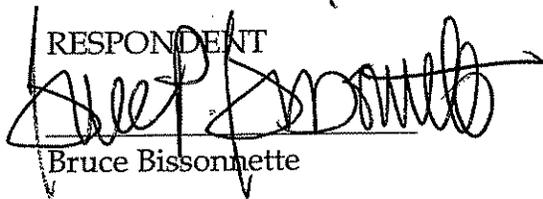
11. Data Classification. Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, this Stipulation and Order is classified as public data upon its issuance by the Board, Minnesota Statutes section 13.41, subdivision 5 (2008). All documents in the record shall maintain the data classification to which they are entitled under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13 (2008). They shall not, to the extent they are not already public documents, become public merely because they are referenced herein. A summary of this Order will appear in the Board's newsletter. A summary will also be sent to the national discipline data bank pertaining to the practice of architecture.

12. Entire Agreement. Respondent has read, understood, and agreed to this

Stipulation and is freely and voluntarily signing it. The Stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto relating to the allegations referenced herein. Respondent is not relying on any other agreement or representations of any kind, verbal or otherwise.

13. Counsel. Respondent is aware that he may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter. Respondent knowingly waived legal representation.

14. Service. If approved by the Board, a copy of this Stipulation and Order shall be served personally or by first class mail on Respondent. The Order shall be effective and deemed issued when it is signed by the Chair of the Board.

RESPONDENT  
  
Bruce Bissonnette

Dated: MARCH 20, 2009

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

By: Billie Lawton  
Billie Lawton, Public Member,  
Committee Chair

Dated: 4-15, 2009

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of the foregoing Stipulation and based upon all the files, records and proceedings herein, all terms of the Stipulation are approved and hereby issued as an Order of this Board on this the 7 day of May, 2009.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF  
ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING,  
LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND  
INTERIOR DESIGN

By: Kurt A. Kuker vice chair  
for Duane Blanck, Professional  
Engineer  
Board Chair

September 19, 2008

SEP 24 2008

Ms. Andrea Barker  
Minnesota State Board of AELSLAGID  
85 East 7<sup>th</sup> Place  
Suite 160  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Professional Development

Dear Ms. Barker,

I received your letter stating I am to document my professional development hours.

I believe a little background information is necessary first. On March first of this year I had my business practice taken from me by my former business partner. With this unexpected split I lost my business (my job), client base and any access to over ten years of records. Since then I have been trying to piece my life back together.

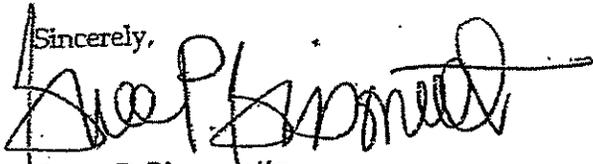
I have enclosed AIA documentation that shows 2006 and carryover hours that would apply to this period. All other records are not attainable. I also have an email receipt from "RedVector" showing I purchased 18 PDH's on 1/29/08. Three of these hours were completed right away. At the time I sent in my renewal on 6/9/08 I was still nine credit hours short. It was my intention to complete the remaining nine hours before the deadline. I did not finish the required hours by June 30<sup>th</sup>. I have since found some stability in my life and have finished my required allotment of PDH's.

I know good intentions mean nothing, but I would respectfully like to request a waiver for time needed to comply with the professional development requirements.

If verification is needed to confirm my situation feel free to contact my attorney who helped me through this, his name is; Chad Johnson @ Hellmuth & Johnson PLLC his telephone number is 952-746-2108. I am also available to meet with you in person to discuss any of this if it would be helpful.

Please call me at 612-790-8900 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bruce P. Bissomette

EXHIBIT A



PDH's for renewal period of 07/01/2006 to 6/30/2008

Bruce Bissonnette, PE # 23532

	A	B	C
1	PDH's	Date Completed	Course Title
2	3	1/29/2008	Building Systems for Designers: Heating and Cooling Systems
3			
4	3	9/16/2008	Building for Senior Living: Long-Term Care and Assisted Living
5			
6	4	9/5/2008	Cracking the Codes 1: People and Rules
7			
8	2	9/9/2008	Geothermal Heat Pumps
9			
10	3	9/15/2008	Cracking the Codes 2: Site Selection and Design
11			
12	3	9/16/2008	Cracking the Codes 3: Urban Design
13			
14			
15	18	Total PDH's	

**EXHIBIT B**

Bruce Bissonnette

From: NoReply@RedVector.com  
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 3:48 PM  
To: bruceB@th-arch.com  
Subject: RedVector Exam Notification

 Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the

Hello Bruce Bissonnette,

You have successfully passed a continuing education exam through RedVector.com:

 Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this pi

Name of Course: Building Systems for Designers: Heating and Cooling Systems

Name of Exam: Final Exam: Building Systems for Designers: Heating and Cooling Systems

See below for information on new products, services and offers from RedVector.

Hours Course is Worth: 3

Exam Score: 96.67%

 Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this pi

Date Exam Completed: 1/29/2008

*NOTE: Course completion credit is dependent upon professional state license or organization requirements. Please check your license/membership requirements to determine if you have earned course credit for that license/membership.*

Sincerely,

The RedVector Client Support Team  
<http://www.redvector.com/Support>

 Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this pi

RedVector  
Two Urban Centre  
4890 West Kennedy Boulevard  
Suite 740  
Tampa, FL 33609

(8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST M-F)  
Toll Free: 1-866-546-1212  
International Phone: 001-813-207-0012

Fax: 813-286-7992  
International Fax: 001-813-286-7992

For comments, questions, or assistance, please contact us at [ClientSupport@RedVector.com](mailto:ClientSupport@RedVector.com)  
You can also call Toll Free at 1 866.645.1212

**Bruce Bissonette**

**From:** CustomerService@RedVector.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2008 10:30 AM  
**To:** bruceb@HAFARCHITECTS.com  
**Subject:** RedVector Exam Notification



Hello Bruce Bissonette,

You have successfully passed a continuing education exam through RedVector.com:

**Name of Course: Building for Senior Living: Long-Term Care & Assisted Living**

**Name of Exam: Final Exam: Building for Senior Living: Long-Term Care & Assisted Living**

**Hours Course Is Worth: 3**

**Exam Score: 100.00%**

**Date Exam Completed: 9/16/2008**

*NOTE: Course completion credit is dependent upon professional state license or organization requirements. Please check your license/membership requirements to determine if you have earned course credit for that license/membership.*

Sincerely,

The RedVector Client Support Team  
<http://www.redvector.com/Support>

RedVector  
Two Urban Centre  
4890 West Kennedy Boulevard  
Suite 740  
Tampa, FL 33609

(8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST M-F)  
Toll Free: 1-866-546-1212  
International Phone: 001-813-207-0012

Fax: 813-286-7992  
International Fax: 001-813-286-7992



See below for information on new products, services and offers from RedVector.com:



**Bruce Bissonette**

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**From:** <CustomerService@RedVector.com>  
**To:** <bruceB@th-arch.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 05, 2008 10:09 AM  
**Subject:** RedVector Exam Notification



Hello Bruce Bissonette,

You have successfully passed a continuing education exam through RedVector.com:



**Name of Course: Cracking the Codes 1: People & Rules**

**Name of Exam: Final Exam: Cracking the Codes 1: People & Rules**

**Hours Course Is Worth: 4**

**Exam Score: 94.44%**

**Date Exam Completed: 9/5/2008**

See below for information on new products, services and offers from RedVector.com:

*NOTE: Course completion credit is dependent upon professional state license or organization requirements. Please check your license/membership requirements to determine if you have earned course credit for that license/membership.*

Sincerely,

The RedVector Client Support Team  
<http://www.redvector.com/Support>

RedVector  
Two Urban Centre  
4890 West Kennedy Boulevard  
Suite 740  
Tampa, FL 33609

(8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST M-F)  
Toll Free: 1-866-546-1212  
International Phone: 001-813-207-0012

Fax: 813-286-7992  
International Fax: 001-813-286-7992



**Bruce Bissonnette**

**From:** CustomerService@RedVector.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2008 3:20 PM  
**To:** bruceb@HAFARCHITECTS.com  
**Subject:** RedVector Exam Notification



Hello Bruce Bissonnette,

You have successfully passed a continuing education exam through RedVector.com:

**Name of Course: Geothermal Heat Pumps**

**Name of Exam: Final Exam: Geothermal Heat Pumps**

**Hours Course Is Worth: 2**

**Exam Score: 87.50%**

**Date Exam Completed: 9/9/2008**

*NOTE: Course completion credit is dependent upon professional state license or organization requirements. Please check your license/membership requirements to determine if you have earned course credit for that license/membership.*

Sincerely,

The RedVector Client Support Team  
<http://www.redvector.com/Support>

RedVector  
Two Urban Centre  
4890 West Kennedy Boulevard  
Suite 740  
Tampa, FL 33609

(8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST M-F)  
Toll Free: 1-866-546-1212  
International Phone: 001-813-207-0012

Fax: 813-286-7992  
International Fax: 001-813-286-7992

See below for information on new products, services and offers from RedVector.com:



**Bruce Bissonnette**

---

**From:** CustomerService@RedVector.com  
**Sent:** Monday, September 15, 2008 12:19 PM  
**To:** bruceb@HAFARCHITECTS.com  
**Subject:** RedVector Exam Notification

  
Hello Bruce Bissonnette,

You have successfully passed a continuing education exam through RedVector.com:

**Name of Course: Cracking the Codes 2: Site Selection and Design**

**Name of Exam: Final Exam: Cracking the Codes 2: Site Selection and Design**

**Hours Course Is Worth: 3**

**Exam Score: 100.00%**

**Date Exam Completed: 9/15/2008**

*NOTE: Course completion credit is dependent upon professional state license or organization requirements. Please check your license/membership requirements to determine if you have earned course credit for that license/membership.*

Sincerely,

The RedVector Client Support Team  
<http://www.redvector.com/Support>

RedVector  
Two Urban Centre  
4890 West Kennedy Boulevard  
Suite 740  
Tampa, FL 33609

(8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST M-F)  
Toll Free: 1-866-546-1212  
International Phone: 001-813-207-0012

Fax: 813-286-7992  
International Fax: 001-813-286-7992

  
**See below for information on new products, services and offers from RedVector.com:**



**Bruce Bissonnette**

**From:** CustomerService@RedVector.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2008 10:15 AM  
**To:** bruceb@HAFARCHITECTS.com  
**Subject:** RedVector Exam Notification

  
Hello Bruce Bissonnette,

You have successfully passed a continuing education exam through RedVector.com:

Name of Course: **Cracking the Codes 3: Urban Design**

Name of Exam: **Final Exam: Cracking the Codes 3: Urban Design**

Hours Course Is Worth: 3

Exam Score: **100.00%**

Date Exam Completed: **9/16/2008**

*NOTE: Course completion credit is dependent upon professional state license or organization requirements. Please check your license/membership requirements to determine if you have earned course credit for that license/membership.*

Sincerely,

The RedVector Client Support Team  
<http://www.redvector.com/Support>

RedVector  
Two Urban Centre  
4890 West Kennedy Boulevard  
Suite 740  
Tampa, FL 33609

(8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST M-F)  
Toll Free: 1-866-546-1212  
International Phone: 001-813-207-0012

Fax: 813-286-7992  
International Fax: 001-813-286-7992

  
**See below for information on new products, services and offers from RedVector.com:**  
  




JAN - 7 2009

12/30/08

Ms. Lynette DuFresne  
Board of AELSLAGID  
85 E 7<sup>th</sup> Place  
Suite 160  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2113

Re: Bruce Bissonnette, File # 2009-0025  
Via Certified Mail

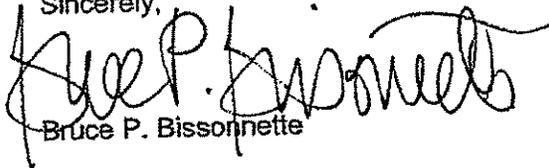
Dear Ms. DuFresne,

I am writing in response to your certified letter dated 12/4/08, file # 2009-0025.

As I stated in a letter to the Board on 9/19/08 and believes needs stating again, this has been an extremely difficult year for me personally. As stated in that letter, I though I was sitting in a very good position having acquired a learning package in January and having five months to complete it. One lesson was completed immediately. Early February I was blind sided by my business partner of ten years and told that he was in the process with his attorney of taking control of the business and that I would be out. This unexpected loss of my business practice was devastating to me both personally and financially. I am in the process of rebuilding my business and this process has consumed a majority of my time.

At the time of renewal, I again started looking at the lessons needed for my requirements. I renewed on line in early June with the intention of completing the credits before the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. As I stated in my 9/19 letter, I did not make it. There was never any attempt on my part to engage in deceit or fraud. I was open and honest with my reply to the Board in my 9/19 letter and there was no attempt on my part to falsify or alter any records. I admitted my mistake and respectfully asked for a waiver on time needed to satisfy the requirements. I truly believed the 10/30/08 letter I received from Ms. Barker gave me this waiver. I messed up and would like to ask again for a waiver on time needed to complete the requirements. I am an honest and ethical person and would not welcome the label that comes with disciplinary action taken by the Board. Please allow me an opportunity to sit before the Board if further explanation or character assessment is needed. Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to resolving this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce P. Bissonnette

Attachments: 10/30/08 letter from Ms. Barker

EXHIBIT C



AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY MAIL

RE: In the matter of Bruce Bissonnette, Architect  
License Number 23532

STATE OF MINNESOTA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF RAMSEY )

Lynette DuFresne, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That at the City of St. Paul, County of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2009, she served the attached Stipulation and Order by depositing in the United States mail at said city and state, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped, with first class and certified postage prepaid, and addressed to:

Mr. Bruce Bissonnette  
3748 Hilltop Road  
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305

CERTIFIED MAIL  
Return Receipt Requested  
7007 0710 0001 3781 8341

Lynette DuFresne  
Lynette DuFresne

Subscribed and sworn to before me on  
this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

Sheri L. Lindemann  
(Notary Public)

