

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

In the Matter of

**STIPULATION AND
CONSENT ORDER**

John Patrick Kozal

Professional Engineer License No. 41505

Board File No. 2023-0060

STIPULATION

John Patrick Kozal ("Respondent") and the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design's Complaint Committee stipulate that, subject to Board's review and discretionary approval, the Board may issue a consent order that imposes the following sanctions:

A. Respondent's Professional Engineer license, No. 41505, is CENSURED and REPRIMANDED pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326.111 (2022).

B. Respondent shall pay to the Board a civil penalty of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000). Respondent shall submit a civil penalty of \$1,000 by check to the Board within sixty (60) days of the Board's approval of this Stipulation and Consent Order.

C. Respondent shall complete 1 professional development hour related to professional ethics and provide proof of completion of the hours to the Board, within 60 days of the Board's approval of this stipulation and Consent Order. This professional development hour shall not count toward Respondent's continuing education requirement for license renewal.

D. Respondent shall remain law abiding and comply with all statutes and rules within the Board's jurisdiction. See Minn. Stat. §§ 326.02--15 (2022) and Minn. R. chs. 1800 & 1805 (2021).

E. Respondent shall report in writing within ten days any and all violations of this stipulation and consent order to the Board's Executive Director.

Respondent and the Committee enter into this stipulation based on the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and other stipulated provisions:

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent was first issued a Professional Engineer license in Minnesota on October 16, 2001.
2. Respondent renewed his Minnesota Professional Engineer license online June 29, 2022.
3. On March 24, 2023, Respondent was notified of his random selection for an audit of professional development hours for the biennium period of July 1, 2020, to license renewal date of June 30, 2022.
4. On March 27, 2023, Respondent reported failing the minimum continuing education requirement of having two of the twenty-four hours dedicated to ethics. Respondent admitted to only having one of the required two ethics hours and stated it truly was an honest mistake.
5. Respondent provided false statements to the Board by answering "True" to the following certification statements in his license renewal application received by the Board on June 28, 2022.
 - a. "I have read and will comply with the provision of Minnesota Statutes §§ 326.02 – 326.15 (2020) and the Rules and Regulations adopted thereunder."

- b. "I declare that everything I have stated in this application is true, correct, and complete. I agree that checking this box shall constitute the execution of this document in exactly the same manner as if I had signed by hand."
6. In an email response to the Board on April 25, 2023, Respondent stated he made an error in completing his continuing education requirements. Respondent acknowledged the importance of professional competency and was cooperative with the Board in its investigation of this matter.

Conclusion of Law

1. The Board has authority to license and regulate Architecture and to take disciplinary action as appropriate. Minn. Stat. ch. 326.111 (2022).
2. Respondent violated Minnesota Statutes §§ 326.107, subdivision 1(a) and (c), 326.111, subdivision 4(a)(1), (2), (5), and (8) (2022), Minnesota Rules 1805.0200, subparts 2 and 4(C), and 1805.0900 (2021).
3. This stipulation and consent order is in the public interest.

Other Stipulated Provisions

1. This stipulation and consent order must be approved by the Board to become effective.
2. Respondent agrees that the Committee may move the Board *ex parte*, with or without advance notice to the Respondent, to approve this stipulation and consent order. Respondent understands that the Board may either approve the stipulation and consent order

or not approve it. This stipulation and the files, records, and proceedings associated with this matter may be reviewed by the Board in its consideration of the Committee's motion.

3. If approved by the Board, this stipulation and consent order shall be classified as public data. Minn. Stat. § 13.41, subd. 5 (2022). The Board will post a copy of this order on its website. The Board will also send a summary to the national discipline data bank pertaining to the practice of Architecture.

4. If the Board does not approve this stipulation and consent order, then the matter remains unresolved, and the Committee may either seek to negotiate a revised stipulation and consent order with Respondent to present to the Board or issue an order commencing a contested-case hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings. *See* Minn. Stat. §§ 14.57–.62, 214.10, subd. 2 (2022) (describing administrative hearing process).

5. Respondent agrees that if this case comes before the Board again after it reviews and discusses this stipulation and consent order, Respondent waives any claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this stipulation and consent order and any records relating to it.

6. Respondent acknowledges that they were advised by the Committee of their right to a contested-case hearing in this matter before an Administrative Law Judge, to file exceptions and make argument to the Board after the hearing, and to seek judicial review from any adverse decision rendered by the Board. Respondent hereby expressly waives those rights. Respondent was further advised by the committee of their right to be represented by counsel and that they knowingly waive that right.

7. Respondent has read, understands, and agrees to this stipulation and has voluntarily signed it. It is expressly understood that this stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise. If approved by the Board, a copy of the final stipulation and consent order shall be served personally or by first class mail on Respondent. The Board's order shall be effective when it is signed by the Chair of the Board or the Chair's designee.

8. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.13 (2022), any civil penalty imposed by this stipulation and consent order shall begin to accrue simple interest in accordance with that section thirty days after the civil penalty is due. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.17 (2022), thirty days after any civil penalty imposed by this stipulation and consent order is due, the Board may file and enforce any unpaid portion of the civil penalty as a judgment against Respondent in district court without further notice or additional proceedings.

John P. Kozal

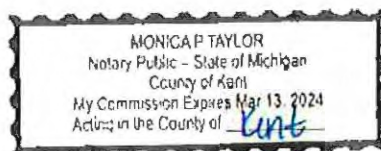
John Patrick Kozal, PE

STATE OF Michigan

COUNTY OF Kent

This instrument was acknowledged before me on November 20, 2023 by John Kozal

(stamp)



Monica P. Taylor

(Signature of notary officer)

My commission expires: 3-13-2024

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE



ERIC FRISKE, JD
Chair

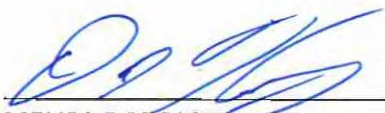
Dated: 11/30, 2023

CONSENT ORDER

Upon consideration of this stipulation and consent order, and based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein, all terms of the stipulation and consent order are approved. Accordingly, the Board hereby ADOPTS the stipulation and issues the ORDER described above.

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

Dated: 11/30, 2023



FOR MELISA RODRIGUEZ, PE
Board Chair

DANIEL KELSEY, PE
BOARD VICE CHAIR