



OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2021-2A

Leslie Hanska, Executive Director
Board of Governors of the Licensed Architects, Landscape
Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers of Oklahoma
220 NE 28th Street, Suite 150
Oklahoma City, OK 73105


January 27, 2022

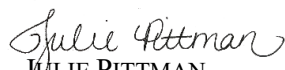
Dear Executive Director Hanska:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action that the Board of Governors of the Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers of Oklahoma (“Board”) intends to take pursuant to a final order in Board Case No. 2021-611. In August 2021, Respondent engaged in dishonest practice by holding himself out as an architect and utilizing a fraudulent architect stamp to seal project plans even though Respondent is not a licensed architect in Oklahoma. The Board proposes fining Respondent \$30,000.00, the maximum allowable penalty of \$10,000.00 per violation. The Board also proposes ordering Respondent to relinquish his fraudulent Oklahoma Licensed Architect stamp.

The State Architectural and Registered Commercial Interior Designers Act authorizes the Board to impose civil penalties for violations of the Act or any of its rules. 59 O.S.2021, § 46.18. The Act forbids the use of “symbols or devices indicating or tending to indicate that such person is an architect . . . unless the person is licensed under the provisions of [the Act]. The Board rules define “dishonest practice” as acts which “evidence attempts . . . to mislead or defraud parties . . .” OAC 55:10-15-7(3). Any party who makes “false or misleading statements on any document” is deemed guilty of fraud, upon conviction. OAC 55:10-15-4. The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed action is necessary to deter future violations.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the Board of Governors of the Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers of Oklahoma has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State’s policy to ensure that architects are properly licensed when providing services.


JOHN M. O’CONNOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA


JULIE PITTMAN
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL