CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER BOARD OF STANDARDS, INC.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In the Matter of Eric B. Kleiner, Respondent.	CFP Board Case No. 2025-67613 May 28, 2026

ORDER

On March 16, 2026, Enforcement Counsel for Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. ("CFP Board") filed a motion under Article 4.2 of CFP Board's *Procedural Rules* ("Motion") requesting that counsel for CFP Board's Disciplinary and Ethics Commission ("DEC Counsel") issue an Administrative Order that permanently bars Respondent from applying for or obtaining CFP® certification.[1] No hearing on the Motion was requested (*see* Motion at 2) and Respondent did not file a response to the Motion.

For the reasons stated below, the Motion is **GRANTED**.

I. BACKGROUND

Respondent became a CFP® professional on February 9, 2007, and remained certified until October 31, 2025, when his certification expired. (Motion, Ex. 1 at 104.)

A. Notice of Investigation

The Motion attaches a June 25, 2025 letter from CFP Board Enforcement staff to Respondent ("Notice of Investigation") requesting documents and information about his firm's March 18, 2025 termination of Respondent's employment and four customer arbitrations filed in the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.'s (FINRA's) dispute resolution forum. (Motion, Ex. 1 at 2–4.) Regulatory disclosures included with the Motion reflect several claimants alleging that Respondent had recommended an investment that was not authorized by his firm and that was outside of the customers' investment strategies. (*Id.* at 45–50.) The Notice of Investigation states that Enforcement sought to determine whether Respondent may have violated CFP Board's *Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct*. (*Id.* at 2–4.)

After receiving no response from Respondent, CFP Board redelivered its Notice of Investigation on October 23, 2025. The letter from Enforcement staff informed Respondent that he would be considered "in default" if he did not acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Investigation within 14 calendar days, and that this could result in the revocation of his CFP® certification. (*Id.* at 5.)

[1] Enforcement Counsel certified in its Motion that it had met and conferred with Respondent by phone on September 25, 2025, in a good faith effort to resolve or narrow the issues but Respondent refused, asserting that "Respondent decided to default with a clear understanding of the results of this decision." (Motion at 1, 2; Motion, Ex. 1 at 6–7.)

On November 6, 2025, Respondent sent Enforcement staff an email stating that he was voluntarily relinquishing his CFP® certification, would not be participating further in CFP Board's investigation, and that CFP Board may proceed with its default process. CFP Board confirmed receipt of Respondent's November 6 email on February 10, 2026 (*id.* at 6–7) and filed its Motion.

B. Motion

Enforcement counsel states in its Motion that Respondent is in default under Articles 4.1.b of the *Procedural Rules* because he has indicated a clear intention not to participate or to cease participation in CFP Board's investigation and disciplinary process. (Motion at 1, 2.)

Enforcement counsel asserts that Respondent's conduct, as described in the Motion and its Exhibits, may have violated Standard D.2 of CFP Board's *Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct*, which requires a CFP® professional to comply with their firm's policies and procedures. Enforcement counsel states that the seriousness, scope, and harmfulness of Respondent's conduct warrants an Administrative Order imposing a Permanent Bar against Respondent. (*Id.* at 1, 3.)

II. DISCUSSION

If Respondent indicates a clear intention not to participate or to cease participation in CFP Board's investigation and disciplinary process, then Respondent is in default under Article 4.1.b of the *Procedural Rules*. Enforcement counsel's Motion states with reasonable particularity the grounds for Respondent's default, as required by Article 4.2.

Enforcement counsel filed the Motion based on its determination of the seriousness, scope, and harmfulness of Respondent's conduct, as required by Article 4.2 of the *Procedural Rules*.

III. CONCLUSION

DEC Counsel **GRANTS** the Motion and issues this **Administrative Order of Permanent Bar** against Respondent. This Order terminates Respondent's CFP Board Certification and Trademark License and permanently prohibits Respondent from applying for or obtaining CFP® certification.[2]

SO ORDERED

Counsel to the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission
Date: May 28, 2026

[2] The Motion and its exhibits and any other exhibits to this Order will not be published under Article 17.7 of the *Procedural Rules*. The *Procedural Rules* are available on CFP Board's website at: www.cfp.net/ethics/enforcement/procedural-rules.