

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

In the Matter of

Clifford R. Thomas,

Respondent.

CFP Board Case No. 2024-66441

August 14, 2026

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF REVOCATION

On July 8, 2026, Enforcement Counsel for Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (“CFP Board”) filed a motion under Article 4.2 of the *Procedural Rules* (“Motion” or “Mot.”) requesting that Counsel for CFP Board’s Disciplinary and Ethics Commission (“Commission” or “DEC”) issue an Administrative Order that revokes Respondent’s CFP® certification.¹ No hearing on the Motion was requested, 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 June 1, 2004 and has been certified since that date. (Mot. at 1.)

A. Complaint

On January 29, 2026, CFP Board Enforcement Counsel filed a Complaint alleging that on June 17 and July 1, 2024, Respondent entered into deferred prosecution agreements to resolve two Relevant Misdemeanor² criminal charges filed against him after he displayed a firearm in a bar and pointed the gun at bar patrons on two separate occasions. (Mot. at 2-3; Mot., Ex. 1 at 25-29.) The Complaint asserts that the deferred prosecution agreements conclusively establish that Respondent engaged in conduct that reflects adversely on his integrity as a CFP® professional, on the CFP® marks, or on the profession in violation of Standard E.2.a³ of its *Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct (Code and Standards)*. (Mot. at 2-3; Mot., Ex. 1 at 23-30.) Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, conduct that results in a Felony or Relevant Misdemeanor

¹ Enforcement Counsel certified in its Motion that, on June 3, 2026, it had attempted to meet and confer with Respondent in a good faith attempt to resolve or narrow the issue of Respondent’s default, but Respondent did not respond to Enforcement Counsel’s request. (Mot. at 2.)

² Standard E.1.b defines a Relevant Misdemeanor as “a criminal offense, that is not a Felony, for conduct involving fraud, theft, misrepresentation, other dishonest conduct, crimes of moral turpitude, *violence*, or a second (or more) alcohol and/or drug-related offense.” (Emphasis added.)

³ Standard E.2.a states that a CFP® professional may not engage in conduct that reflects adversely on his or her integrity or fitness as a CFP® professional, on the CFP® marks, or on the profession. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, conduct that results in a Felony or Relevant Misdemeanor conviction, or admission into a program that defers or withholds the entry of judgment or conviction for a Felony or Relevant Misdemeanor.

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conviction, or admission into a program that defers or withholds the entry of a judgment of conviction for a Felony or Relevant Misdemeanor.

On March 16, 2026, Respondent filed an Answer to the Complaint, admitting to bringing a weapon into a bar and entering into the deferred prosecution agreements, but denying he pointed the weapon at anyone. (Mot., Ex. 1 at 32-36.)

On May 20, 2026, DEC Counsel issued a Scheduling Order and asked that Respondent execute an attached form acknowledging that he had reviewed CFP Board's *Procedural Rules* and that he understood various aspects of the proceedings. (Mot., Ex. 1 at 39-49.)

Respondent e-mailed CFP Board that day stating that he would not renew his certification (Mot., Ex. 1 at 168), and on May 29, 2026, Respondent submitted to CFP Board an executed form regarding his relinquishment. (Mot., Ex. 1 at 166, 169.)

On June 3, 2026, Respondent e-mailed CFP Board stating that he would not sign the acknowledgement form and representing that he had already relinquished his CFP® certification. (*Id.* at 37.) Respondent did not respond to Enforcement Counsel's request that Respondent confirm whether he intended to cease further participation in CFP Board's disciplinary process. (*Id.*)

Enforcement Counsel filed its Motion on July 8, 2026. (Mot. at 5.)

B. Motion

Enforcement Counsel asserts in its Motion that Respondent is in default under Article 4.1.b of the *Procedural Rules* because Respondent refused to sign the acknowledgement form he received and said that he has relinquished his CFP® certification, indicating Respondent's clear intention not to participate or to cease participation in CFP Board's investigation. (Mot. at 2-3.)

In the Motion, Enforcement Counsel asserts that Respondent's conduct may have violated Standard E.2.a of CFP Board's *Code and Standards*, and that the seriousness, scope, and harmfulness of the conduct warrant an administrative order of revocation. (Mot. at 3-5.)

II. DISCUSSION

If Respondent indicates a clear intention not to participate or to cease participation in a CFP Board investigation, then the Respondent is in default under Article 4.1.b of the *Procedural Rules*.

In accordance with Article 4.2 of the *Procedural Rules*, Enforcement Counsel's Motion states with reasonable particularity the grounds for Respondent's default under Article 4.1.b. Respondent refused to sign the acknowledgement form he received with his Scheduling Order, has already relinquished his certification, and has not replied to Enforcement Counsel's request for confirmation of his participation in CFP Board's disciplinary process.

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

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III. CONCLUSION

DEC Counsel **GRANTS** the Motion and issues this **Administrative Order of Revocation** against Respondent (“Order”). This Order revokes Respondent’s Certification and Trademark License and permanently prohibits Respondent from applying for or obtaining CFP Board certification.

IV. COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER

Under Article 11.2 of the *Procedural Rules*, Respondent is required to submit to Enforcement Counsel, within 45 calendar days of issuance of this Order, or by **September 28, 2026**, written evidence that Respondent:

- **Has advised Respondent’s Firm(s)**, in writing, of this Order in the manner set forth in Standard D.3 of the *Code and Standards*; and
- **Has advised all Clients**⁴ of this Order and provided all Clients the location of CFP Board’s website that sets forth Respondent’s disciplinary history in the manner set forth in Standard A.10 of the *Code and Standards* (see <http://www.cfp.net/verify>).

Under Article 11.3 of the *Procedural Rules*, Respondent is required to submit to Enforcement Counsel, within 45 calendar days of issuance of this Order, or by **September 28, 2026**, Respondent’s statement of assurance that Respondent will not use the CFP Board certification marks and proof that Respondent has removed the CFP Board certification marks from all internet sites or other tangible materials that Respondent exposes to the public, including screenshots of the businesses, social media, and third-party financial advisor listing website profiles that Respondent controls, pictures of signage, and when applicable, copies of Respondent’s business cards, letterhead, and marketing and promotional materials, as well as pictures of any other materials Respondent controls in which the CFP® marks previously appeared publicly in reference to Respondent or Respondent’s services. Failure to do so may result in further disciplinary or legal action regarding the unauthorized use of the CFP Board certification marks.

SO ORDERED

Counsel to the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission
Date: **August 14, 2026**

⁴ Respondent must notify all clients as the term “Client” is defined in the Glossary to CFP Board’s Code and Standards, available at <https://www.cfp.net/ethics/code-of-ethics-and-standards-of-conduct>.