

**PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**

In the Matter of the Certified Public
Accountant (CPA) Certificate and/or
Licenses to Practice Public Accounting of:

Chi Fai Ben Wong
License No. 28128

Respondent.

No. ACB-1508

CONSENT AGREEMENT

The Washington State Board of Accountancy (Board) and Chi Fai Ben Wong
(Respondent), stipulate and agree as follows:

Section 1: Procedural Stipulations

- 1.1 Respondent understands that the Board has issued a Statement of Charges in the matter and may proceed to a hearing before the Board upon the merits of said charges. The Board has not proceeded to a hearing in order to facilitate resolution of the matter in accordance with the legislative intent endorsed in RCW 34.05.060 and the provisions of WAC 4-30-140.
- 1.2 Respondent has the right to defend against a Statement of Charges by demanding a hearing and presenting evidence on the Respondent's behalf. Respondent voluntarily waives the right to a hearing and all other rights that may be accorded the Respondent by the Administrative Procedures Act, chapter 34.05 RCW, and the laws of Washington, including the right to petition the courts for judicial review.
- 1.3 Respondent understands that should the Board prevail at hearing based on the Statement of Charges that the Board has the power and authority to deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse

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to renew the Respondent's CPA certificate or any individual or firm licenses to practice public accounting as a CPA or CPA firm in Washington and may impose a fine plus the Board's investigative and legal costs in bringing charges or impose conditions precedent to renewal of the certificate or license, or impose full restitution to injured parties.

- 1.4 Respondent wishes to expedite the resolution of the matter by means of the Consent Agreement and does not desire to proceed to a formal hearing based on the issuance of a Statement of Charges.
- 1.5 Respondent understands that the terms of the Consent Agreement are not binding unless approved by the Board and fully executed.
- 1.6 Should the Consent Agreement be rejected by the Board and the Board proceeds with the issued Statement of Charges, the Respondent waives any objection to the participation of any members of the Board at a hearing on the matter, other than the Consulting Board Member in the proceeding.

The parties further stipulate to the following Stipulated Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order:

Section 2: Stipulated Facts

- 2.1 At all times material hereto, Chi Fai Ben Wong, the Respondent herein, held an individual Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license to practice as a CPA in the state of Washington, No. 28128, issued on January 14, 2010.
- 2.2 In 2016, Respondent self-reported his CPE deficiency of 116 hours to the Board in accordance with WAC 4-30-134(8) for the reporting window of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015. As a part of the self-reported deficiency process, Respondent's CPE would be subject to audit in his next renewal cycle.

- 2.3 On April 27, 2019, Respondent submitted an application for the renewal of his CPA license. In the application, Respondent reported that he completed 120 hours of CPE required for renewal between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2018.
- 2.4 For the audit of Respondent's January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 reporting period, Respondent provided 120 hours of CPE documentation. The completion dates for all provided certificates were between April 18, 2019, and April 27, 2019. Respondent stated that all courses were purchased and studied for in December 2018, and the exams required to complete the CPE courses were taken in April 2019. WAC 4-30-132(8) states "credit for self-study programs is allowed for reporting purposes on the date you completed the program as established by the evidence of completion provided by the program sponsor." Accordingly, none of the CPE provided by Respondent qualified for the audited reporting period.

Section 3: Conclusions of Law

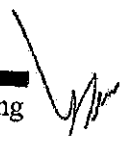
- 3.1 The Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the subject matter of the proceeding.
- 3.2 Failure to complete a total of 120 CPE hours within the reporting period for renewal of a CPA license, as set out above, constitutes cause for Board sanction under RCW 18.04.295 and WAC 4-30-134(2).

Section 4: Agreed Order

- 4.1 Respondent consents to the entry of the Agreement and has waived any right to a hearing.
- 4.2 Pursuant to RCW 18.04.295, the Board has the power to impose discipline. Based on the preceding Stipulated Facts and Conclusions of Law, the Board and Respondent agree that:
- 4.2.1 Respondent's CPA license is suspended for three years.

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Chi Fai Ben Wong



- 4.2.2 The suspension in Paragraph 4.2.1 shall be stayed. Should Respondent fail to comply with any terms of this Consent Agreement, then, after due notice and opportunity for a hearing, the stay shall be lifted and the three-year suspension shall be imposed.
- 4.2.3 120 hours of CPE completed by Respondent in April 2019 shall be carried back to the 2016 through 2018 reporting period. This CPE shall not satisfy the requirements for any other reporting period.
- 4.2.4 Respondent shall complete a minimum of forty (40) hours of qualifying CPE in 2019, 2020, and 2021, for the reporting period of January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021. The 120 total hours of CPE must meet the requirements for renewal set forth in WAC 4-30-134, including CPE in ethics and regulations detailed in WAC 4-30-134(6). Respondent shall provide certificates to the Board as follows:
- 4.2.4.1 By January 31, 2020, Respondent shall provide certificates for a minimum of 40 CPE hours completed between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019. The courses completed in April 2019 and carried back per Paragraph 4.2.3 are not eligible to satisfy this requirement.
- 4.2.4.2 By January 31, 2021, Respondent shall provide certificates for a minimum of 40 CPE hours completed between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020.
- 4.2.4.3 By January 31, 2022, Respondent shall provide certificates for a minimum of 40 CPE hours completed during between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021.


4.2.5 Respondent shall pay the Board a fine in the amount of one thousand dollars five hundred (\$1,500) within 90 days of the service of the Agreement. Such fine shall be made payable to the Washington State Board of Accountancy and remitted to the Washington State Board of Accountancy at PO Box 9131, Olympia, WA, 98507-9131.

4.2.6 Respondent shall pay the Board the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) to reimburse the Board's investigative and legal costs within 90 days of the service of the Agreement. Such reimbursement shall be made payable to the Washington State Board of Accountancy and remitted to the Washington State Board of Accountancy at PO Box 9131, Olympia, WA 98507-9131.

I, Chi Fai Ben Wong, certify that I have read the Consent Agreement in its entirety, and that I fully understand and agree to all of it and that it may be presented to the Board without my appearance. If the Board accepts the Consent Agreement, I understand that I will receive a signed copy.

DATED the 24th day of May, 2019.

RESPONDENT




Chi Fai Ben Wong

The Board accepts and enters the Consent Agreement.

DATED the 7 day of JUNE, 2019.

WASHINGTON STATE
BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY



Mark Hugh, CPA
Chair