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# Florida Engineering Laws & Rules Online for 2023

by

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#### Introduction

This is our seventeenth Florida Laws & Rules course since 2001.

This course will help you know and understand the laws and rules that affect you as a professional engineer. As is our custom, we will NOT cover any of the rules on qualifying for, applying for, or taking the PE exam because you are already licensed. Nor will we test you on the organization and administrative functioning of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers or the Florida Engineering Management Corporation. Instead, we will concentrate on eye-opener topics relevant to engineering's everyday practice, which may have escaped your notice. We want you to learn something you did not know.

When necessary, we will update the course to reflect changes in Florida Law, changes in the Board's rules, and changes brought about by case law from the courts. All the characters used in the case studies are fictitious, but the reference material is taken directly from the Laws and Rules that govern our profession. The names used in the questions came from the author's family tree and were selected to be least likely to match any living person.

The reference material, including the spelling, grammar, and paragraph numbering, is taken directly from the Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code.

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#### **Question 1 Reference Material**

471.033 Disciplinary proceedings.—

- (1) The following acts constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions in subsection (3) may be taken:
  - (a) Violating any provision of s. 455.227(1), s. 471.025, or s. 471.031, or any other provision of this chapter or rule of the Board or department.
  - (b) Attempting to procure a license to practice engineering by bribery or fraudulent misrepresentations.
  - (c) Having a license to practice engineering revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including the denial of licensure, by the licensing authority of another state, territory, or country, for any act that would constitute a violation of this chapter or chapter 455.
  - (d) Being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of engineering or the ability to practice engineering.
  - (e) Making or filing a report or record that the licensee knows to be false, willfully failing to file a report or record required by state or federal law, willfully impeding or obstructing such filing, or inducing another person to impede or obstruct such filing. Such reports or records include only those that are signed in the capacity of a licensed engineer.
  - (f) Advertising goods or services in a manner that is fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading in form or content.
  - (g) Engaging in fraud or deceit, negligence, incompetence, or misconduct, in the practice of engineering.
  - (h) Violating chapter 455.
  - (i) Practicing on a revoked, suspended, inactive, or delinquent license.
  - (j) Affixing or permitting to be affixed his or her seal, name, or digital signature to any final drawings, specifications, plans, reports, or documents that were not prepared by him or her or under his or her responsible supervision, direction, or control.
  - (k) Violating any order of the Board or department previously entered in a disciplinary hearing.
  - (l) Performing building code inspection services under s. 553.791, without satisfying the insurance requirements of that section.
- (2) The Board shall specify, by rule, what acts or omissions constitute a violation of subsection (1).
- (3) When the Board finds any person guilty of any of the grounds set forth in subsection (1), it may enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties:

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- (a) Denial of an application for licensure.
- (b) Revocation or suspension of a license.
- (c) Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed \$5,000 for each count or separate offense.
- (d) Issuance of a reprimand.
- (e) Placement of the licensee on probation for a period of time and subject to such conditions as the Board may specify.
- (f) Restriction of the authorized scope of practice by the licensee.
- (g) Restitution.
- 1. Jacob Loewenberger is a licensed professional engineer in Florida. One of his Florida home builder clients asked him to prepare some preliminary site plans for a new Atlanta project and to get licensed in Georgia. The Georgia board became aware that he had already begun work on the project by preparing preliminary sketches. They denied his application on the grounds that he had been practicing without a license. What impact does that denial have on his Florida license?
  - o None
  - o The Florida Board of Professional Engineers may discipline him

#### **Questions 2-4 Reference Material**

# 61G15-27.001 Procedures for a Successor Professional Engineer Adopting As Their Own the Work of Another Engineer.

- (1) A successor professional engineer seeking to reuse already sealed plans, prints, engineering specifications, and/or engineering calculations under the successor professional engineer's seal shall do so in compliance with Section 471.025(4), FS. In other words, calculations, site visits, research and the like must be documented and producible upon demand. Plans, prints, engineering specifications, and/or engineering calculations need not be redrawn by the successor professional engineer; however, justification for such action must be available through well kept and complete documentation on the part of the successor professional engineer as to their having rethought and reworked the entire design process. A successor professional engineer must use their own title block, seal and signature and must remove the title block, seal and signature of the original professional engineer before reusing any sealed, prints, engineering specifications, and/or engineering calculations used for permitted works.
- (2) Prior to sealing and signing such work a successor professional engineer shall be required to notify the original professional engineer, their successors, or assigns of the successor's intention to use or reuse the original professional engineer's work. Notification shall be by certified letter or

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other verifiable communication to the last known physical or electronic address of the original professional engineer.

(3) A professional engineer's reliance upon and legal use of another's engineering work, in the normal course of providing original service, is not reuse or adoption of such other engineer's work as contemplated by Section 471.025(4), FS, and the professional engineer relying upon such work is not a "successor engineer" as used in that section. Such engineering work includes but is not limited to, geotechnical reports, soil investigation reports, legal surveys, and other works that may be sealed, but which are used to support the professional engineer's work and are not adopted as the professional engineer's original service or work product.

#### 471.025 Seals.—

- (1) The Board shall prescribe, by rule, one or more forms of seal to be used by licensees. Each licensee shall obtain at least one seal in the form approved by rule of the Board and may, in addition, register his or her seal electronically in accordance with ss. <u>668.001-668.006</u>. All final drawings, specifications, plans, reports, or documents prepared or issued by the licensee and being filed for public record and all final documents provided to the owner or the owner's representative shall be signed by the licensee, dated, and sealed with said seal. Such signature, date, and seal shall be evidence of the authenticity of that to which they are affixed. Drawings, specifications, plans, reports, final documents, or documents prepared or issued by a licensee may be transmitted electronically and may be signed by the licensee, dated, and sealed electronically with said seal in accordance with ss. <u>668.001-668.006</u>.
- (2) It is unlawful for any person to seal or digitally sign any document with a seal or digital signature after his or her license has expired or been revoked or suspended, unless such license has been reinstated or reissued. When an engineer's license has been revoked or suspended by the Board, the licensee shall, within a period of 30 days after the revocation or suspension has become effective, surrender his or her seal to the executive director of the Board and confirm to the executive director the cancellation of the licensee's digital signature in accordance with ss. 668.001-668.006. In the event the engineer's license has been suspended for a period of time, his or her seal shall be returned to him or her upon expiration of the suspension period.
- (3) No licensee shall affix or permit to be affixed his or her seal, name, or digital signature to any plan, specification, drawing, final bid document, or other document that depicts work which he or she is not licensed to perform or which is beyond his or her profession or specialty therein.
- (4) A successor engineer seeking to reuse documents previously sealed by another engineer must be able to independently re-create all of the work done by the original engineer. A successor engineer assumes full professional and legal responsibility by signing and affixing his or her seal to the assumed documents. Such documents must be treated as though they were the successor engineer's original product, and the original engineer is released from any professional



responsibility or civil liability for prior work assumed by the successor engineer. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "successor engineer" means an engineer who is using or relying upon the work, findings, or recommendations of the engineer who previously sealed the pertinent documents.

# This case applies to the next three questions.

Elizabeth Southworthy, P.E. is a civil engineering consultant to a builder in central Florida. One of her assignments was to revise some plans completed, signed, and sealed by her predecessor firm and owned by the builder. She reused the original drawings but recreated all the calculations, site visits, and research.

- 2. Who's title block must she show on the revised plans?
  - o The original engineer
  - o Elizabeth Southworthy
  - o Both
  - o The client's title block only
- 3. Who will be legally and professionally responsible for the work?
  - o The client (who owns the plans)
  - o The original engineer
  - o Elizabeth Southworthy
  - The responsibility is shared between the original engineer and Elizabeth Southworthy
  - The responsibility is shared between the original engineer, Elizabeth Southworthy, and the client
- 4. What responsibility does Elizabeth Southworthy have to the original engineer?
  - She must obtain permission from the original engineer before she can reuse his plans.
  - She must notify him of her intention to reuse the plans
  - o None because the client is the legal owner of the documents

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#### **Questions 5-6 Reference Material**

# 61G15-30.006 Delegation of Engineering Documents: Obligations of the Delegated Engineer of Record.

- (1) It is the delegated engineer's responsibility to review the Engineer of Record's written engineering requirements and authorization for the delegated engineering document to determine the appropriate scope of engineering.
- (2) The delegated engineering document shall comply with the written engineering requirements received from the engineer of record. They shall include the project identification and the criteria used as a basis for its preparation. If a delegated engineer determines there are details, features or unanticipated project limits which conflict with the written engineering requirements provided by the engineer of record, the delegated engineer shall timely contact the engineer of record for resolution of conflicts.
- (3) The delegated engineer shall forward the delegated engineering document to the engineer of record for review. All final delegated engineering documents require the impressed seal and signature of the delegated engineer and include:
- (a) Drawings introducing engineering input such as defining the configuration and structural capacity of structural components and/or their assembly into structural systems.
- (b) Calculations.
- (c) Computer printouts which are an acceptable substitute for manual calculations provided they are accompanied by sufficient design assumptions and identified input and output information to permit their proper evaluation. Such information shall bear the impressed seal and signature of the delegated engineer as an indication that said engineer has accepted responsibility for the results.

#### 61G15-30.008 Use of Computer Software and Hardware.

The engineer shall be responsible for the results generated by any computer software and hardware that he or she uses in providing engineering services.

- 5. Ralph Fitzherbert, P.E., is a delegated HVAC engineer for a new hospital. He uses software written by Maud De Sutton, P.E., to design ductwork. Who is responsible for any errors produced by the software?
  - o Ralph Fitzherbert, P.E.
  - o Maud De Sutton, P.E.
  - o Both
  - o Neither

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- 6. Fitzherbert wants to submit the computer printout to the engineer of record for the project as a substitute for manual calculations. The printout lists the design assumptions plus input and output data. Is he required to sign and seal the printouts?
  - o Yes
  - o No

#### **Question 7 Reference Material**

#### 61G15-22.003 Qualifying Activities for Area of Practice Requirement.

- (1) Successful completion of college courses.
- (2) Successful completion of short courses, tutorials, webinars, and distance education courses offered through delivery methods such as live, correspondence, recorded, Internet-based; or attending seminars (including in-house engineering seminars), workshops, or professional and technical presentations at meetings, conventions or conferences presented/sponsored by a provider or vendor with specific knowledge related to the licensee's area of practice approved under Rule 61G15-22.011, FAC.
- (3) Teaching or instructing in subsection (1) or (2) above. However, teaching credit is valid for teaching a course or seminar for the first time only. Teaching credit does not apply to full-time faculty.
- (4) Authoring published technical engineering papers, articles, or books; or accepted licensee examination items for NCEES. Continuing education credits are earned on the date of publication.
  - (5) Patents.
- (6) Active participation in professional or technical societies. Civic or trade organizations do not qualify under this provision. Credit for this activity requires that the licensee serve as an officer of the organization or actively participate on a committee in the organization. Continuing Education credits are not earned until the end of each year of completed service.

#### 61G15-22.004 Conversion of Education Units to Continuing Education Hours.

- (1) One (1) college semester hour credit is equal to 45 continuing education hours.
- (2) One (1) college quarter hour credit is equal to 30 continuing education hours.
- (3) One (1) contact hour of professional development in course work, seminars (including inhouse seminars at an engineering firm), or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, or conferences is equal to 1 continuing education hour.
- (4) For teaching of subsections (1) through (3) above, apply a multiple of 2, if the requirements of subsection 61G15-22.003(3), FAC, are met.
- (5) Each published peer-reviewed paper or book in the licensee's area of professional practice is equal to 10 continuing education hours.

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- (6) Each published paper or article (other than in paragraph (5) above) in the licensee's area of professional practice is equal to 5 continuing education hours.
- (7) Authoring accepted licensee examination items for NCEES is equal to 2 continuing education hours.
- (8) Each patent developed using engineering principles is equal to 10 continuing education hours.
- (9) Active participation in professional and technical societies as described in subsection 61G15-22.003(6), FAC. Each hour of participation is equal to 1 continuing education hour, with a maximum credit of 4 continuing education hours per renewal period.
  - 7. Elizabeth Engayne is a Florida professional engineer with a strong background in hydraulics. Every year she writes a 4-hour course for an approved continuing education provider. In addition to receiving royalties, she earns teaching credit toward the 18-hour requirement for her biannual renewal. How many teaching hours does she have at the end of two-years?
    - 0 4
    - 0 8
    - 0 12
    - 0 16

#### **Question 8 Reference Material**

### 61G15-30.002 Definitions Common to All Engineer's Responsibility Rules.

- (1) Engineer of Record. A Florida professional engineer who is in responsible charge for the preparation, signing, dating, sealing and issuing of any engineering document(s) for any engineering service or creative work.
- (2) Prime Professional. A Florida professional engineer or a duly qualified engineering corporation or partnership, who is engaged by the client to provide any planning, design, coordination, arrangement and permitting for the project and for construction observations in connection with any engineering project, service or creative work. The prime professional engineer may also be an engineer of record on the same project.
- (3) Delegated Engineer. A Florida professional engineer who undertakes a specialty service and provides services or creative work (delegated engineering document) regarding a portion of the engineering project. The delegated engineer is the engineer of record for that portion of the engineering project. A delegated engineer usually falls into one of the following categories:
  - (a) An independent consultant.
  - (b) An employee or officer of an entity supplying components to a fabricator or contractor, so

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long as the engineer acts as an independent consultant or through a duly qualified engineering corporation.

- (c) An employee or officer of a fabricator or contractor, so long as the engineer acts as an independent consultant or through a duly qualified engineering corporation.
- (4) Engineering Documents. Engineering documents are designs, plans, specifications, drawings, prints, reports, or similar instruments of service in connection with engineering services or creative work that have been prepared and issued by the professional engineer or under his responsible supervision, direction or control.
- (5) Delegated Engineering Documents. Delegated engineering documents are those engineering documents that are prepared by a delegated engineer.
- (6) Public Record. An engineering document is "filed for public record" when said document is presented with the engineer of record's knowledge and consent to any federal, state, county, district, authority, municipal or other governmental agency in connection with the transaction of official business with said agency.
- (7) "Engineering Documents Prepared for Public Record" are those documents filed for public record with the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to determine compliance with Codes and Standards and to be used for execution of the project. These documents are required to be signed and sealed.
- (8) Shop Drawings: Drawings depicting installation means and methods, catalog information on standard products, prepared by a contractor, manufacturers, or professional engineers for incorporation into the project which are prepared based on engineering direction contained in Engineering Documents. Shop drawings do not require the signature, date and seal of a professional engineer.
- (9) Record Documents: Documents that are a compiled representation of the constructed project. If the engineer is relying on information provided by others not under the direct supervision and control of the engineer, then the engineer shall not be required to sign, date and seal these Documents. If relying on information by others, as a minimum, the following shall be included on the Documents:
  - (a) Statement that the documents are a compiled representation of the constructed project.
  - (b) Listing of the sources and basis of information used in the preparation of the Documents.
- (c) Statement that the Documents are believed to be correct to the best of the engineer's knowledge, and that the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed.

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- 8. Nicholas Wickersly P.E. has a contract to design fire suppression systems and produce shop drawing for a fire sprinkler contractor. When the water utility company representative insisted that William sign and seal the shop drawings for one project, he refused. The utility employee filed a complaint with the Florida Board of Professional Engineers. What is the maximum penalty that the FBPE could impose on Nicholas for failing to sign and seal shop drawings?
  - o None. Shop drawings are not required to be signed and sealed.
  - o A \$1000 fine and license suspension.
  - o A \$5000 fine and license suspension.
  - o License revocation

#### **Question 9 Reference Material**

# 61G15-26.001 Standards for Supervision of Governmental Employees by Professional Engineers.

- (1) As required by Section 471.003(2)(b)2., FS employees of governmental entities must act under the responsible charge of professional engineers as defined in subsection 61G15-18.011(1), FAC, whenever they are performing engineering as that term is defined in Section 471.005(7), FS. The supervision exercised over such employees by the professional engineer in responsible charge must be of such a quality as to be equivalent to that required of private firms. Further, all documents or reports which would be equivalent to those requiring a professional engineer's seal when filed for public record in the private sector will require the seal, signature and date of the supervising professional engineer when such documents or reports are filed or promulgated on behalf of a governmental entity. This rule shall prohibit non-professional employees governed by this rule from overriding, or approving, accepting or rejecting, or modifying engineering documents prepared by professional engineers unless such actions are concurred in by a professional engineer in responsible charge of the employee and that said professional engineer takes full responsibility for such a decision.
- (2) No individual may be entitled or act in the capacity of "municipal", "city" or "county engineer" unless that individual is licensed as a professional engineer in this State.

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- 9. Anna Vaux has a degree in engineering, but she is not licensed. She is the head of the public works and engineering department for Snake Bite, Florida. Her title is "Public Works Director and City Engineer." She reports to the village manager, who previously held her job and is a licensed engineer. Do the board rules allow her to use this title?
  - o Yes
  - o No

#### **Question 10 Reference Material**

# 61G15-19.004 Disciplinary Guidelines; Range of Penalties; Aggravating and Mitigating Circumstances.

- (1) The Board sets forth below a range of disciplinary guidelines from which disciplinary penalties will be imposed upon practitioners (including qualified business organizations) guilty of violating Chapter 471, FS. The purpose of the disciplinary guidelines is to give notice to licensees of the range of penalties which will normally be imposed upon violations of particular provisions of Chapter 471, FS. The disciplinary guidelines are based upon a single count violation of each provision listed. Multiple counts of violations of the same provision of Chapter 471, FS, or the rules promulgated thereto, or other unrelated violations contained in the same administrative complaint will be grounds for enhancement of penalties. All penalties at the upper range of the sanctions set forth in the guidelines, i.e., suspension, revocation, etc., include lesser penalties, i.e., fine, probation or reprimand which may be included in the final penalty at the Board's discretion. All impositions of probation as a penalty shall include successful completion of the Engineering Law and Rules Study Guide, completion of a Board-approved course in Engineering Professionalism and Ethics, and an appearance before the Board at the option of the Board at the end of the probationary period. Other terms may be imposed by the Board at its discretion.
- (2) The following disciplinary guidelines shall be followed by the Board in imposing disciplinary penalties upon licensees for violation of the below mentioned statutes and rules. For the purposes of this rule, the descriptions of the violations are abbreviated and the full statute or rule cited should be consulted to determine the prohibited conduct.

VIOLATION	PENALTY RANGE	
	FIRST VIOLATION	SECOND AND
		SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS
<ul><li>(g) Fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetence or misconduct.</li><li>(Sections 471.033(1)(g) and 455.227(1)(a), (m), F.S.)</li></ul>		
1. Fraud or deceit	Reprimand, two (2) years	One (1) year suspension and
	probation and \$1,000 fine, to	\$5,000.00 fine to

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	one (1) year supension and \$5,000.00 fine.	Revocation.
2.a. Negligence. (Subsection 61G15-19.001(4), FAC.)	Reprimand, two (2) years probation and \$1,000 fine, to \$5,000.00 fine, five (5) year suspension and ten (10) years probation.	Two (2) years probation and \$1,000.00 fine, to \$5,000.00 fine and Revocation.
b. Negligence in procedural requirements. (Subsections 61G15-30.003(2), (3) and (5), FAC; Rules 61G15-30.005 and 61G15-30.006, FAC.)	Reprimand to two (2) years probation and \$1,000.00 fine.	Two (2) years probation and \$1,000.00 fine, to \$5,000.00 fine and Revocation.
c. As a special inspector.	Reprimand, two (2) years probation and \$1,000 fine, to \$5,000.00 fine.	Two (2) years probation and \$1,000.00 fine, to \$5,000.00 fine and Revocation.
3. Incompetence. (Subsection 61G15-19.001(5), FAC.)	Two (2) year probation to Suspension until ability to practice proved followed by two (2) year probation.	Suspension until ability to practice proved followed by two (2) year probation, to Revocation.
4. Misconduct. (Subsection 61G15-19.001(6), FAC.)	Reprimand and \$1,000.00 fine to one (1) year suspension.	One (1) year suspension to Revocation and \$5,000.00 fine.
a. Expressing an opinion publicly on an engineering subject without being informed as to the facts and being competent to form a sound opinion.  (Paragraph 61G15-19.001(6)(a), FAC.)	Reprimand and \$1,000.00 fine to one (1) year suspension.	One (1) year suspension to Revocation and \$5,000.00 fine.
b. Being untruthful, deceptive or misleading in any professional report, statement or testimony or omitting relevant and pertinent information from such report, statement or testimony when the result or such omission would or reasonably could lead to a fallacious conclusion.  (Paragraph 61G15-19.001(6)(b), FAC.)	Reprimand and \$1,000.00 fine to one (1) year suspension.	One (1) year suspension to Revocation and \$5,000.00 fine.
c. Offering directly or indirectly any bribe or commission or tendering any gift to obtain selection or preferment for engineering employment other than the payment of the usual commission for securing salaried positions through licensed employment agencies.  (Paragraph 61G15-19.001(6)(e), FAC.)	Reprimand, \$5,000.00 fine per count and suspension for five (5) years, to Revocation.	Five (5) years suspension to Revocation.
d. Soliciting or accepting gratuities without client knowledge.  (Paragraphs 61G15-19.001(6)(g), (h), F.A.C.)	Reprimand, one (1) year probation and \$1,000 fine, to one (1) year suspension, two (2) years probation and	One (1) year suspension, two (2) years probation and \$5,000.00 fine to Revocation.

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	\$5,000.00 fine.	
e. Failure to preserve client's confidence. (Paragraph 61G15-19.001(6)(r), FAC.)	Reprimand, one (1) year probation and \$1,000.00 fine, to one (1) year suspension, two (2) years probation (if pecuniary benefit accrues to engineer).	One (1) year suspension, two (2) years probation and \$5,000.00 fine to Revocation.
f. Professional judgment overruled by unqualified person. (Paragraph 61G15-19.001(6)(l), FAC.)	Reprimand, one (1) year probation and \$1,000.00 fine, to one (1) year suspension, two (2) years probation and \$5,000.00 fine.	One (1) year suspension, two (2) years probation and \$5,000.00 fine to Revocation.
g. Use of name/firm in fraudulent venture. (Paragraph 61G15-19.001(6)(k), FAC.)	Reprimand, one (1) year probation and \$1,000.00 fine, to \$5,000.00 fine, one (1) year suspension and two (2) years probation.	One (1) year suspension, two (2) years probation and \$5,000.00 fine to Revocation.
h. Undisclosed conflict of interest. (Paragraphs 61G15-19.001(6)(f), (p), F.A.C.)	Reprimand, \$1,000.00 fine and two (2) years probation, to Revocation and \$5,000.00 fine.	One (1) year suspension, two (2) years probation and \$5,000.00 fine to Revocation.
i. Renewing or reactivating a license without completion of continuing education hours.  (Paragraph 61G15-19.001(6)(s), FAC.)	Reprimand, \$1,000.00 fine, to suspension until licensee demonstrates compliance.	One (1) year suspension and \$1,000.00 fine to Revocation.
(h) Violating any provision of chapter 455, FS. (Sections 471.033(1)(h) and 455.227(1)(q), FS.)	Depending on the severity of the violation, Reprimand and \$1,000.00 fine per count, to \$5,000.00 fine and revocation.	Depending on the severity of the violation, One (1) year suspension, two (2) years probation and \$5,000.00 fine to Revocation.

- (3) The Board shall be entitled to deviate from the above-mentioned guidelines upon a showing of aggravating or mitigating circumstances by clear and convincing evidence presented to the Board prior to the imposition of a final penalty. The fact that an Administrative Law Judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings may or may not have been aware of the below mentioned aggravating or mitigating circumstances prior to a recommendation of penalty in a Recommended Order shall not obviate the duty of the Board to consider aggravating and mitigating circumstances brought to its attention prior to the issuance of a Final Order.
- (a) Aggravating circumstances; circumstances which may justify deviating from the above set forth disciplinary guidelines and cause the enhancement of a penalty beyond the maximum level of discipline in the guidelines shall include but not be limited to the following:
  - 1. History of previous violations of the practice act and the rules promulgated thereto.



- 2. In the case of negligence; of the magnitude and scope of the project and the damage inflicted upon the general public by the licensee's misfeasance.
- 3. Evidence of violation of professional practice acts in other jurisdictions wherein the licensee has been disciplined by the appropriate regulatory authority.
- 4. Violation of the provision of the practice act wherein a letter of guidance as provided in Section 455.225(3), FS, has previously been issued to the licensee.
- (b) Mitigating circumstances; circumstances which may justify deviating from the above set forth disciplinary guidelines and cause the lessening of a penalty beyond the minimum level of discipline in the guidelines shall include but not be limited to the following:
- 1. In cases of negligence, the minor nature of the project in question and lack of danger to the public health, safety and welfare resulting from the licensee's misfeasance.
- 2. Lack of previous disciplinary history in this or any other jurisdiction wherein the licensee practices his profession.
  - 3. Restitution of any damages suffered by the licensee's client.
  - 4. The licensee's professional standing among his peers including continuing education.
- 5. Steps taken by the licensee or his firm to insure the non-occurrence of similar violations in the future.
  - 10. Anthony Babington, P.E. renewed his license by attesting that he had completed his continuing education requirements when he had not. The FBPE discovered his deception during an audit conducted by the board. Under the board's disciplinary guidelines, what is the penalty range for a first violation?
    - o Reprimand
    - o \$1,000 fine
    - o License suspension until licensee demonstrates compliance
    - o All of the above

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**END** 

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