

Markham
Norton Stroemer
& Company P.A.
Business Consultants/Certified Public Accountants

July 5, 2001

Department of Business & Professional Regulation
Division of Certified Public Accounting
Board of Accountancy
Martha Willis, Executive Director
240 NW 76th Drive, Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32607

Dear Martha:

I would like the Board of Accountancy to consider the following hypothetical situation at the next meeting of the board.

1. **A complete statement of the situation which must be hypothetical. The Board cannot respond to requests regarding actual circumstances. If the request pertains to only a small portion of a large transaction which would impact the situation presented, the entire transaction should be submitted.**
2. **The request must contain:**
 - (1) **Specific questions relating to the situation presented.**

If our Firm were to hire an employee that holds a CPA license, in a state other than Florida, with the AICPA credential of ABV, could these initials be used after his or her name? Currently, the AICPA legal and ethics department do not have an answer and suggested I contact the State of Florida Board of Accountancy.

I would like the board to consider that if a new employeethat holds a non-Florida CPA license, practicing in the State of Florida, with the AICPA credential of ABV, be able to use the initials as follows:

Jane A. Doe, ABV*

*(Accredited in Business Valuation) a Credential of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Or:

Jane A. Doe, CPA*/ABV

Regulated by the State of South Carolina

(2) Citations to and discussion of the pertinent law and rules.

In the Rule Chapter 61H1-24.001(1)(g), Advertising, it states that “A licensee may state or imply that the licensee has received any bona fide formal recognition or attainment in conjunction with the CPA licensure designation so long as contained within the advertisement and in the immediate proximity of the CPA licensure designation is found a statement that the CPA licensure designation is regulated by the state of Florida. In addition, the advertisement must use a mark, such as an asterisk, to tie the CPA designation to the statement. In the event that a licensee uses the term “specialty” or “specialist” or any other term tending to indicate an advanced standing in any aspect of the practice of public accountancy, in any advertisement must state that the use of the term is a self-designation and is not sanctioned by the state or federal government.”

(3) Conclusions Drawn for each question asked, based on the law and rules.

In conclusion, I would like the Board to consider that if a new employee were to hold an accreditation such as ABV, but is not a licensed CPA in the State of Florida, that he or she be able to use that designation with a reference noted below. Since Florida Rule Chapter 61H1-24.001(1)(g) states how Florida CPA's must advertise and specifically how the use of this type of accreditation may be used in advertising, I feel that if someone holds the ABV accreditation he or she should be allowed to use it in advertising.

Thank you for your consideration. I will await the Boards decision.

Sincerely,

Gretchen M. Harper
Administrator