

BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION

In the Matter of:) Case No.: P23-084
Pablo Ceron Non-Registrant	CONSENT AGREEMENT and ORDER OF DISCIPLINE
Respondent	t {

In the interest of a prompt and judicious resolution of the above-captioned matter before the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration ("Board") and consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements, and the responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101 et seq., and A.A.C. R4-30-120(G), the undersigned party, Pablo Ceron, Non-Registrant, ("Respondent") and the Board enter into the following Recitals, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

RECITALS

- 1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and has had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney, or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney.
- 2. Respondent understands that he has a right to a public administrative hearing concerning this case. He further acknowledges that at such formal hearing he could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Respondent knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably waives his right to such an administrative hearing, as well as rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action concerning the matters set forth herein.
- 3. Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be irrevocable.

- 4. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement or any part of the agreement may be considered in any future disciplinary action by the Board against him.
- 5. The Consent Agreement, any record prepared in this matter, all investigative materials prepared or received by the Board and all related exhibits and materials, are public records upon acceptance by the Board of this Consent Agreement and may be retained in the Board's files pertaining to this matter.
- 6. Respondent understands this Consent Agreement deals with Board case number P23-084 involving allegations that Respondent engaged in conduct that would subject him to discipline under the Board's statutes and rules. The investigation into these allegations against Respondent shall be concluded upon the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement.
- 7. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of any other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding.
- 8. Respondent also understands that acceptance of this Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this State from instituting any other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.
- 9. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning this document to the Board's Executive Director, he may not revoke his acceptance of the Consent Agreement or make any modifications to the document regardless of whether the Consent Agreement has been signed on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually agreed by the parties in writing.
- 10. This Consent Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board and is effective only when accepted by the Board and signed on behalf of the Board. If the Board does not accept this Consent Agreement, the Board retains its authority to hold a

formal administrative hearing pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(E). In the event that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party, except that the parties agree that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or any records relating thereto.

- 11. If a court of competent jurisdiction rules that any part of this Consent Agreement is void or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
- 12. Respondent understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of the registration under A.R.S. § 32-150.
- 13. Respondent agrees that the Board will adopt the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of Professional Engineering in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent is not registered with the Board as a Professional Engineer, nor has he ever been.
- 3. On or about August 2, 2022, Respondent modified One (1) sheet of structural engineering plans, previously signed and sealed by Christopher Barbsy ("Professional Engineer"), a Professional Civil Engineer, for a residential project on South Park Street in Flagstaff, Arizona. Respondent then re-affixed Professional Engineer's seal to the modified sheet within the structural engineering plans without Professional Engineer's knowledge or permission.
- 4. On or about January 4, 2023, Respondent prepared structural engineering plans, structural calculations, and a special inspection form for a separate residential project on North Humphreys Street in Flagstaff, Arizona. Respondent affixed

Professional Engineer's seal to each of the Five (5) sheets in the structural engineering plans, One (1) sheet in the structural calculations, and One (1) sheet in the special inspection form without Professional Engineer's knowledge or permission.

- 5. On or about February 8, 2023, the Board received a complaint alleging that Respondent, a non-registrant, used Professional Engineer's signature and seal on a set of structural engineering plans, structural calculations, and special inspection form for the residential project on North Humphrey's Street in Flagstaff, Arizona, without Professional Engineer's knowledge or permission.
- 6. On or about March 15, 2023, Respondent provided a written statement acknowledging that he prepared the structural engineering plans, the structural calculations, and the special inspection form for the residential project on North Humphrey's Street in Flagstaff, Arizona. Respondent further acknowledged that he affixed Professional Engineer's seal to the structural engineering plans, the structural calculations, and the special inspection form without Professional Engineer's knowledge or permission.
- 7. On or about April 14, 2023, Professional Engineer stated that he was not involved in the residential project on North Humphrey's Street in Flagstaff, Arizona, and did not affix his seal to any of the documents associated with the project. Professional Engineer further stated that he did not give permission for Respondent to use his professional seal, and was unaware that Respondent had done so.
- 8. On or about May 2, 2023, a City of Flagstaff plan reviewer ("Reviewer"), stated that he reviewed the submitted plans and documents for the residential project on North Humphrey's Street in Flagstaff, Arizona. Reviewer stated that he identified multiple errors on the structural engineering portions of the plans. The reviewer further stated that he contacted Professional Engineer to discuss the identified errors and was told by Professional Engineer that he had not prepared the documents and had not affixed his professional seal to them.
 - 9. On or about May 2, 2023, a City of Flagstaff building supervisor stated that

while checking past records, she found structural engineering plans for a residential project on South Park Street in Flagstaff, Arizona, that have Professional Engineer's professional seal affixed to them.

- 10. On or about May 2, 2023, after having reviewed the structural engineering plans for the residential project on South Park Street in Flagstaff, Arizona, Professional Engineer stated that he prepared and sealed the initial structural engineering plans. Professional Engineer further stated, however, that One (1) sheet in the structural engineering plans submitted to the City of Flagstaff had been modified without his knowledge. Professional Engineer stated that he did not prepare or seal the plan modification, and did not give permission for his professional seal to be affixed to the modified sheet.
- 11. On or about August 9, 2023, Respondent provided a written statement acknowledging that he modified a sheet in the structural engineering plans for the residential project on South Park Street in Flagstaff, Arizona, after Professional Engineer had affixed his professional seal to the structural engineering plans. Respondent further acknowledged that he did not notify Professional Engineer of the modification, and reaffixed Professional Engineer's seal to the modified sheet in the structural engineering plans without Professional Engineer's knowledge or permission.
- 12. On or about August 8, 2023, the property owner ("Owner") of both the project on North Humphrey's Street and the project on South Park Street in Flagstaff, Arizona, indicated that Respondent was his sole contact for the projects' structural engineering. Owner indicated that he knew Respondent was not registered as a Professional Engineer. Owner indicated that Respondent had advised him that he was collaborating with Professional Engineer on the preparation and sealing of the structural engineering documents for both projects.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101, et seq, including A.R.S. § 32-106.02(A).

- 2. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact, constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-145(4), in that Respondent used the registration of another on Eight (8) separate occasions in Arizona.
- 3. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact, constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. §32-106.02(A), A.R.S. § 32-121, and A.R.S. § 32-145(1), in that Respondent practiced or offered to practice a Board regulated profession without registration with the Board on Two (2) separate projects in Arizona.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board issues the following Order:

- 1. CIVIL PENALTY. Within Twelve (12) Months from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00); \$2,000 for each of the Eight (8) instances of use of the seal of another and \$1,000 for each instance of practicing or offering to practice engineering, by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration, according to the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-106.02(A).
- 2. COST OF INVESTIGATION. Within Thirty (30) Days from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay the cost of investigation of this case to the Board in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty Six Dollars (\$326.00) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration, according to the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-128(H).
- 3. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, related to the practice of Professional Engineering in the State of Arizona. The Board shall consider any violation of this paragraph to be a separate violation of the statutes governing the Arizona Board of Technical Registration.
- 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the date the Respondent and Board sign the Consent Agreement. If the dates are different, the effective date is the later of the two dates.

- 5. COSTS OF COMPLIANCE. Respondent shall pay all costs associated with complying with this Consent Agreement.
- 6. NONCOMPLIANCE. If Respondent violates this Order in any way or fails to fulfill the requirements of this Order, the Board may pursue any legal option including filing a Petition for Injunction in accordance with the provisions set forth in A.R.S. § 32-106.01.

ACCEPTED and ORDERED this 27 day of OCCEPTED, 2023.

Jack Gilmore, L.A., Chairman Arizona State Board of Technical Registration

Consent Agreement and Order, No. P23-084 accepted this <u>26</u> day of October , 2023.

Pablo Ceron, Respondent

1	ORIGINAL filed this day of
2	, 2023, with:
3	Arizona State Board of Technical Registration
4	Arizona State Board of Technical Registration 1110 W. Washington, Suite 240 Phoenix, AZ 85007
5	COPY of the foregoing mailed via Certified Mail
6	No and First Class mail this day of, 2023, to:
7	Pablo Ceron
8	502 E. Royal Palm Rd.
9	Phoenix, AZ 85020
10	D
11	By:
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	