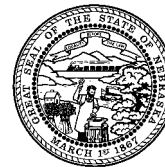


STATE OF NEBRASKA

BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

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Dave Heineman
Governor

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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BOARD SANCTIONS CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Lincoln, Nebraska, January 24, 2008– The Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy at their Board Meeting on January 11, 2008 issued a Decision and Order after a public hearing concerning an Elkhorn/Pawnee City, Nebraska certified public accountant (CPA), who did not possess a current active permit to practice.

In the matter of Mary E. Ritchie the Board ordered Ms. Ritchie be placed on probation for three years, pay a civil fine of \$2000, and she cannot conduct governmental audits during the probation period without prior submission of adequate governmental Continuing Professional Education and a Pre-Issuance review by a qualified CPA.

Within the Board's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law it was determined Ms. Ritchie violated provisions of the Public Accountancy Act and the Board's Rules and Regulations by continuously from July 1, 2006 and through sometime in August of 2007, continued to hold herself out as a CPA permitted to practice in the State of Nebraska even though she did not have an active permit to practice during that time period. It was alleged Ms. Ritchie conducted at least two governmental audits without an active permit to practice during this time period.

Additionally, the Board indicated that Ms. Ritchie can immediately file applications for her active permit to practice and firm permit. Ms. Ritchie completed this process and currently holds an active permit to practice.

Any questions concerning the Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy and or accountancy law in Nebraska can be directed to the Board office at (402) 471-3595.