

**SHORTHAND REPORTING**

*Deanne R. Tomura*

**FILED**

*November 7, 2007*

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF COURT REPORTING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	<u>Administrative Action</u>
	:	
<b>CHRISTOPHER FRIIS, C.S.R.</b>	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
TO PRACTICE COURT REPORTING	:	
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

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This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Court Reporting (hereinafter the "Board") upon its review of the 2006-2008 biennial renewal application of respondent Christopher Friis, C.S.R. A review of this document revealed that the respondent answered "no" to the question in the renewal application inquiring as to whether he had satisfied the continuing education requirements mandatory for the renewal of his court reporting certificate. The Board has reviewed the renewal application, and other relevant documents on which the following preliminary findings of facts and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACTS

1. Respondent, Christopher Friis, C.S.R., is a certified court reporter in the State of New Jersey and has been licensed at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about August 2006, the Board office reviewed the respondent's renewal application and noted that he advised that he had not completed the required continuing education courses for renewal of his certificate for the 2006-2008 licensure period.

3. In an August 23, 2006 correspondence, Mr. Friis provided documentation that indicated he had taken two (2) continuing education courses, in 2001 and 2004, respectively, for a total of six (6) credits.

4. In a letter dated September 25, 2006, the Board directed Mr. Friis to comply with the applicable statute and regulations governing the practice of court reporting and granted him a six (6) month extension, until March 31, 2007, to fulfill the requirement for the completion of fifteen (15) continuing education credits. In this correspondence, Mr. Friis was advised that the one of the courses for which he requested continuing education credit was denied by the Board because the course was taken during and applied to another prior renewal period. Further, the respondent was advised that failure to complete all

of the required continuing education credits could subject him to disciplinary action. As of March 24, 2007, Mr. Friis provided documentation to indicate that he has completed six (6), of the required fifteen (15), continuing education credits for the 2006-2008 renewal period.

5. In a letter dated May 5, 2007, respondent provided documentation to the Board office which indicated that he completed an additional eight (8) credits in court reporting training on April 28, 2007. To date, Mr. Friis has failed to demonstrate that he has complied with the Board's directive and completed the outstanding one (1) credit for the 2006-2008 licensure period.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent has not satisfied the requirements of N.J.S.A. 45:15B-3.1 and N.J.A.C. 13:43-7.1 and 7.2 with regard to the completion of the appropriate number of approved continuing education credits and is therefore subject to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), namely, the failure to comply with the provisions of an act or regulation administered by the Board. The Board finds that this conduct constitutes grounds for the suspension or revocation of a certificate to practice court reporting as well as grounds for sanction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

2. Respondent has failed to cooperate with the Board's September 2006 directives to furnish it with proof that he has met and completed the continuing education requirements for the biennial renewal period of 2006-2008 in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:43-7.1, N.J.A.C. 13:43-7.2 and N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3.

3. Respondent is subject to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), failure to comply with the provisions of an act or regulation administered by the Board, which constitutes grounds for suspension or revocation of any certificate, registration or license, and grounds for sanction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

#### DISCUSSION ON FINALIZATION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline, which among other sanctions provisionally suspended the respondent's certificate to practice court reporting in the State of New Jersey until such time as the respondent completed the required continuing education, was entered on June 27, 2007 and a copy was served on the respondent. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing

any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

In response to the Provisional Order, Mr. Friis provided to the Board, in a correspondence received by the Board office on July 16, 2007, proof that he had completed three (3) additional continuing education credits, thereby belatedly satisfying his continuing education requirements for the 2006-2008 licensure period.

The Board reviewed the respondent's submission at its July 16, 2007 meeting. Based upon the reviewed submission, the Board determined that Mr. Friis had satisfied the requirements of N.J.S.A. 45:15B-3.1 and N.J.A.C. 13:43-7.1 in that he has completed the requisite amount of continuing education for the 2006-2008 licensure period. Further, the Board concluded that the respondent had complied with the Board's prior directives and furnished proof of his compliance with its regulations. Thus, the Board determined that the respondent's license would not be suspended and that no civil penalty would be imposed. Additionally, the Board determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was persuaded that the submitted materials satisfied

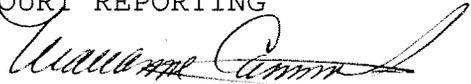
the continuing education requirements. Thus, the Board voted to rescind the Provisional Order in its entirety.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November

~~OCTOBER~~ 2007 ORDERED that:

1. The Provisional Order entered against the respondent Christopher Friis, C.S.R., on June 27, 2007 is hereby rescinded.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD  
OF COURT REPORTING

By: 

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MARIANNE CAMMAROTA, C.S.R.  
President