

MEDIATOR QUALIFICATIONS BOARD
Central Division

In Re: Stephen D. Woodin

Case Number: MQB 2012-012

Panel: The Honorable Dee Anna Farnell
 Eileen Griffin
 Eugene Walker
 Stephanie Buck
 Kim Joyner Diaz

Order Accepting Admission to Formal Charges and Imposing Sanction

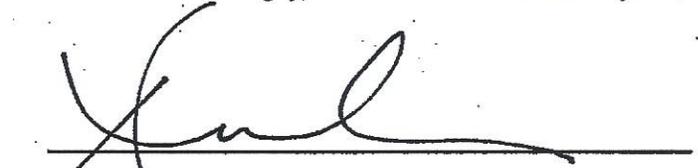
The Mediator Qualifications Board, Central Division, by its duly designated five-member Panel, upon considering the attached *Admission and Stipulation*, enters its order in this matter pursuant to Rule 10.820(b), Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators as follows:

1. Upon a unanimous vote of the panel, the Panel accepts the Respondent's admission to the formal charges and imposes the sanction as enumerated in the attached *Admission and Stipulation* (attached hereto and made a part hereof).

2. The Dispute Resolution Center is directed to notify all relevant parties and publish this Order with the attached *Admission and Stipulation* pursuant to Rule 10.830, Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators.

3. The hearing scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2013, is cancelled.

Accordingly, this matter is hereby concluded.



Hon. Dee Anna Farnell, Hearing Panel Chair
14250 49th Street, Chamber 3
Clearwater, Florida 33762

11.6.13

Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing order was furnished by United States mail or by hand-delivery to the following this 6th day of November 2013:

Eileen Griffin
1430 Oakfield Drive
Brandon, Florida 33511

Eugene Walker
1735 West 4th Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32209

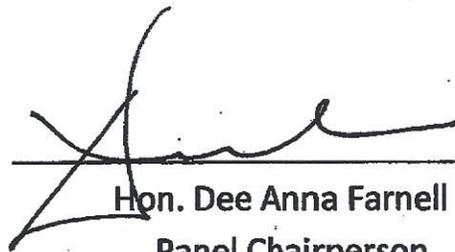
Stephanie Buck
714 Jefferson Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33801

Kim Joyner Diaz
10708 Lake Carroll Way
Tampa, Florida 33618

Stephen D. Woodin, Mediator
200 N. Railroad St.
Bunnell, FL 32110

Melvia B. Green, Esq., Prosecutor
Post Office Box 1055
Odessa, FL 33556

Janice Fleischer, Director
Florida Dispute Resolution Center
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399



Hon. Dee Anna Farnell
Panel Chairperson

MEDIATOR QUALIFICATIONS BOARD

In Re: Stephen Woodin
Mediator No.: 18549

Case No.: MQB 2012-012

ADMISSION AND STIPULATION

WHEREAS, a Grievance Complaint Committee of the Mediator Qualifications Board has found probable cause and brought formal charges against the above-referenced Mediator alleging violations of Administrative Order AOSC11-1, *In Re: Rules Governing Certification of Mediators II,B*; and the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators, Rules 10.600; 10.610(a); 10.610(b); and 10.610(f); and

WHEREAS, a hearing on the formal charges against the Mediator is scheduled for November 13, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Mediator wishes to admit to the formal charges and agrees to the imposition of sanctions without the necessity of a hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Mediator admits to all of the allegations set forth in the Formal Charges attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Admission and Stipulation

MQB 2012-012

Pg. 1014 (SW)

2. The Mediator accepts the imposition of the following Sanction:

The Mediator shall immediately and permanently cease to advertise and offer the course "Personal Safety & Family Protection" or any similarly-related course to Mediators, for CME credits.

3. Any default of this agreement by the Mediator will result in this matter going back to the Mediation Qualifications Board ("MQB") for further action.
4. Upon the acceptance by the Hearing Panel assigned to this case of this Admission and Stipulation, the Mediator waives all rights to seek review under the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Admission and Stipulation and of any final order to be entered by the Hearing Panel.
5. If they so request, the Mediator authorizes the Hearing Panel and the MQB to review and examine all investigative file materials concerning the Mediator in connection with the consideration of this Admission and Stipulation. The

Admission and Stipulation

MQB 2012-012

Pg. 2 of 4 (Sw)

Mediator agrees that consideration of this Admission and Stipulation and other related materials by the Hearing Panel and/or the MQB shall not prejudice or preclude the Hearing Panel, the MQB, or any of their members from further participation, consideration, or resolution of these proceedings if the terms of this Admission and Stipulation are not accepted by the Hearing Panel.

Stephen Woodin 11/4/13
Stephen Woodin, Mediator

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Flagler

Before me, personally appeared Stephen Woodin whose identity is known to me by Florida Drivers License (type of identification) and who, under oath, acknowledges that he executed this document voluntarily and for the purposes therein expressed.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 4 day of November, 2013.

Michelle Marks
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires:

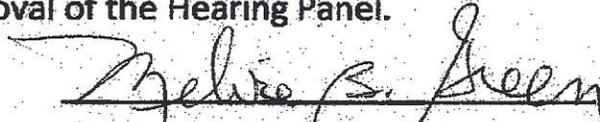


Admission and Stipulation

MQB 2012-012

Pa. 3 of 4 (SW)

Agreed, pending approval of the Hearing Panel.


Melvia B. Green, Esq., Prosecutor

Admission and Stipulation

MQB 2012-012

PS 4084 (5w)



MEDIATION QUALIFICATIONS BOARD

Grievance Complaint Committee

In Re: Stephen Woodin

Case Number: MQB-2012-012

Mediator No.: 18549

RECEIVED

JUN 06 2013

Supreme Court of Florida
Dispute Resolution Center

FORMAL CHARGES

Having examined the Grievance Complaint and other information provided both by the complainant, Dispute Resolution Center ("DRC") and the mediator to determine whether the mediator has violated Administrative Order AOSC11-1, *In Re: Rules Governing Certification of Mediators II.B* and the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators, the Mediation Qualifications Board Complaint Committee finds that there is probable cause to believe that:

1. The mediator has violated Administrative Order AOSC11-1, *In Re: Rules Governing Certification of Mediators II.B*. The stated purpose of Continuing Mediation Education ("CME") is to "enhance the participant's professional competence as a mediator." Further, to qualify as CME pursuant to this Administrative Order, "a course or activity shall have significant, current intellectual or practical content and shall constitute an organized program of learning directly related to the practice of mediation."

The probable cause finding of a violation of this Administrative Order is based upon the following allegations of fact:

- (a) The mediator offered the course "Personal Safety & Family Protection" for seven (7) hours of CME to mediators, the essential purpose of which was to train mediators in self-defense; gun target practice; and to qualify the participants for a concealed firearms permit.
- (b) The offered course "Personal Safety & Family Protection" did not enhance a participant's professional competence as a mediator. Nor did this course constitute an organized program of learning directly related to the practice of mediation.
2. The mediator has violated Rules 10.600 and 10.610(a) and (f) of the Florida Rules for Certified & Court-Appointed Mediators. Rule 10.600 provides that "[A] mediator shall preserve the quality of the profession. A mediator is responsible for maintaining professional competence and forthright business practices, fostering good relationships, assisting new mediators, and generally supporting the advancement of mediation." Rule 10.610(a) states, among other things, that "[A] mediator shall not engage in any marketing practice, including advertising, which contains false or misleading information..." Rule 10.610 (f) further prescribes, among other things, that "[A] mediator shall not engage in any marketing practice that "...demeans the dignity of the mediation process..."

The probable cause finding that the mediator has violated Rules 10.600; 10.610(a) and (f) is based upon the following allegations of fact:

- (a) The mediator advertised the course "Personal Safety & Family Protection" to mediators as having been approved for seven (7) hours of CME.
 - (b) The course "Personal Safety & Family Protection" has never been approved as a CME course. The representation that this course had been approved for seven (7) hours of CME, therefore, constitutes a false or misleading marketing practice.
 - (c) The course "Personal Safety & Family Protection" was essentially a course designed to train mediators, among other things, in the art of self-defense; proper handling of a firearm; and to qualify them to obtain a permit to carry a concealed firearm. As such, this course did not meet the requirements of a CME and demeaned the dignity of the mediation process.
3. The mediator has violated Rule 10.610(a) and (b) of the Florida Rules for Certified & Court-Appointed Mediators. Rule 10.610(a) provides that "[A] mediator shall not engage in any marketing practice, including advertising, which contains false or misleading information. A mediator shall ensure that any marketing of the mediator's qualifications, services to be rendered, or the mediation process is accurate and honest." Rule 10.610(b) provides that "Any marketing practice in which a mediator indicates that such mediator is 'Florida Supreme Court certified' is misleading unless it also identifies at least one area of certification in which the mediator is certified."

