

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION 2022-1A

Leslie Hanska, Executive Director Board of Governors of the Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers of Oklahoma 220 NE 28th Street, Suite 150 Oklahoma City, OK 73105 January 27, 2022

Dear Executive Director Hanska:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action that the Board of Governors of the Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers of Oklahoma ("Board") intends to take pursuant to a final order in Board Case No. 2019-551. The Board found that Respondents were not licensed and/or authorized to perform architectural services yet held themselves out as being able to provide architectural services and created plans for a wedding venue without having a license or certificate of authority. The Board proposes fining Respondents \$2,000.00.

The State Architectural and Registered Commercial Interior Designers Act authorizes the Board to impose civil penalties for violations of the Act or any of the rules promulgated thereunder. 59 O.S.2021, § 46.18. The Act forbids "the practice of architecture[,] . . . use of the title 'Architect', . . . [or any other displays] tending to indicate that such person is an architect or is practicing architecture, unless the person is licensed under the provisions of [the Act]." *Id.* § 46.8a(A). The practice of architecture is defined as "rendering . . . services[] in connection with the design . . . of a building[,]" including providing "designs [and] drawings. . . ." *Id.* § 46.3(2). The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed action is necessary to deter future violations.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the Board of Governors of the Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers of Oklahoma has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State's policy to ensure that architects are properly licensed when providing services.

JOHN M. O'CONNOR

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