



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2015-31A

Richard Pierson, Executive Director
Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol
and Drug Counselors
101 NE 51st Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

September 30, 2015

Dear Executive Director Pierson:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding agency action that the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors intends to take. The proposed action is to deny the application for licensure of the applicant Greg Walston, who pleaded guilty to a felony charge of driving under the influence in 2014.

The Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2014, §§ 1870–1885, authorizes the Board to deny the application for licensure of any person who has “[b]een convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a felony,” 59 O.S.2011, § 1881(A)(1). The Board has a policy of denying any application whose felony conviction or plea occurred less than five years prior to application. Such a policy seeks to ensure that individuals offering counseling services in the areas of alcohol and drug abuse be well-qualified and competent. Further, in this particular instance a conviction that involves alcohol or drug abuse militates against finding the applicant to be well-qualified.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State of Oklahoma’s policy to ensure Oklahomans receive alcohol and drug abuse treatment from competent, qualified providers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt".

E. SCOTT PRUITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA