Randall A. Ross, Executive Director
Oklahoma Accountancy Board
201 NW 63rd St., Ste. 210
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73116

Dear Executive Director Ross:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding agency action that the Oklahoma Accountancy Board intends to take pursuant to a consent agreement in case 2113. The certificate holder failed to complete the required amount of continuing professional education hours during the three-year period of 2013 to 2015. In addition, deficiencies were observed in the licensee’s practice on two consecutive reviews under the Board’s peer review program. These deficiencies involved the failure to comply with auditing standards. The proposed action is to impose a $500 fine plus $238.97 in costs and require the certificate holder to inform the Board before performing any A-133 audit work.

The Oklahoma Accountancy Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2016, §§ 15.1–15.38, requires licensees to “comply with professional standards in the Board’s professional code of conduct,” 59 O.S.2011, § 15.14B(5), and mandates all certificate holders to complete 120 hours of continuing professional education over each three-year period, id. § 15.35(C). The Act authorizes the Board to implement a program under which firms performing certain accounting services are reviewed by peers at least once every three years. Id. § 15.30. Under the Board’s rules implementing this program, peer review reports are submitted to the Board’s Peer Review Oversight Committee for review and, in cases requiring Board action, referral to the Board itself. See OAC 10:15-33-5, 6, 7.

This action seeks to ensure that licensees observe the technical standards of the accounting profession and continue to have up-to-date information and skills necessary to properly report financial information. The Board may reasonably believe that the corrective action, based on peer review reports, is necessary to deter future violations.
It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the Oklahoma Accountancy Board has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State of Oklahoma's policy requiring that certified public accountants obtain continuing education and adhere to professional standards.

E. SCOTT PRUITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA