

**CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER BOARD OF STANDARDS, INC.  
WASHINGTON D.C.**

In the Matter of

Mary Beth K. McManus,

Respondent.

CFP Board Case No. 2024-66201

September 18, 2024

**INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDER**

On July 8, 2024, Enforcement Counsel for Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (“CFP Board”) filed a Motion for Interim Suspension Order under Article 2.1.a. of CFP Board’s *Procedural Rules* requesting that a Hearing Panel of CFP Board’s Disciplinary and Ethics Commission (“DEC” or “Commission”) issue an Interim Suspension Order against Respondent (“Petition”)<sup>1</sup>.

**I. ASSERTED GROUNDS FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION**

In support of its Petition, Enforcement Counsel alleges that on June 25, 2024, Respondent disclosed to CFP Board that Respondent was convicted of felony tax evasion and sentenced to probation in January 2024. Attached to the Petition is an Ethics Attestation that bears Respondent’s name and reflects this criminal action. (Petition, Exh. at A2.)

Enforcement Counsel asserts based on its preliminary investigation that on August 14, 2023, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida filed charges alleging that, beginning in or around May 2017 and continuing through at least in or around April 2022, Respondent willfully attempted to evade and defeat the payment of taxes and penalties due for the quarter ending September 30, 2011, through the quarter ending December 31, 2013, and the quarter ending June 30, 2015, through the quarter ending December 31, 2016; and her individual taxes owed for years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Enforcement Counsel asserts that Respondent allegedly attempted to facilitate this evasion by transferring a total of \$75,000 among several accounts that she controlled between May 12, 2017 and October 16, 2019. In support of these assertions, the Petition cites and attaches a criminal Information filed against Respondent in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. (*Id.* at A9-A14.)

Enforcement Counsel asserts that on January 17, 2024, Respondent pleaded guilty to a single felony count of “Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax”, was sentenced to three years of probation, and was ordered to pay restitution to the Internal Revenue Service in the amount of \$574,921.09. The Petition cites and attaches records from the Florida federal district court that reflect this information. (*Id.* A19-A34.)

Enforcement Counsel argues that that the conduct alleged in the Petition—involving criminal tax evasion over several years by a CFP® professional who renders professional advice and assistance on matters of

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<sup>1</sup> Enforcement Counsel styled its filing a “Motion” instead of a “Petition”, the term used in Article 2.1.a. Because Enforcement is seeking an Interim Suspension Order under Article 2.1, the Commission will treat, and refer to, Enforcement Counsel’s filing as a “Petition” in this Order. The Petition and any other exhibits to this Order will not be published under Article 17.7 of CFP Board’s *Procedural Rules* (see [www.cfp.net/ethics/enforcement/procedural-rules](http://www.cfp.net/ethics/enforcement/procedural-rules)).

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taxation—reflects adversely on Respondent’s integrity and fitness as a CFP® professional, on the CFP Board certification marks and on the profession. Enforcement Counsel asserts that the Commission would likely impose a sanction of at least a Suspension considering the conduct and the aggravating factors present here, including Respondent’s intentional misconduct with knowledge as a tax professional, and the amount of restitution Respondent was required to pay. Enforcement Counsel argues that an Order imposing an Interim Suspension on Respondent would be in the public interest.

## II. DECISION

After considering the Petition and evidence presented, the Hearing Panel finds that Enforcement Counsel has demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence that: (a) Respondent’s alleged conduct reflects adversely on Respondent’s integrity and fitness as a CFP® professional, on the CFP Board certification marks and on the profession; (b) Respondent’s conduct likely will result in a sanction of a Suspension or greater pursuant to CFP Board’s *Sanction Guidelines*; and (c) an Interim Suspension Order against Respondent is in the public interest.

The requirements under Article 2.1.a.3. of the *Procedural Rules* have been met, the Petition is **GRANTED**, and the Hearing Panel issues this **Interim Suspension Order** suspending Respondent’s CFP Board financial planning certification and right to use the CFP Board certification marks during the pendency of proceedings. An Interim Suspension is a temporary sanction that does not preclude CFP Board from imposing a final sanction.

An Interim Suspension is a public sanction and CFP Board publishes an Interim Suspension Order in accordance with Articles 2.2 and 17.7 of the *Procedural Rules*.

Ordered by:

Chair of the Hearing Panel  
The Disciplinary and Ethics Commission, CFP Board  
Date: September 18, 2024