

MARYLAND BOARD OF INDIVIDUAL \*  
TAX PREPARERS

v.

DANTE HICKS,

Respondent

BEFORE THE MARYLAND BOARD OF \*  
INDIVIDUAL TAX PREPARERS \*

CASE NO.: MITP-16-0029 \*

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the Maryland Board of Individual Tax Preparers (the "Board") as a result of a complaint filed by the Maryland Office of the Comptroller (the "Comptroller") against Dante Hicks (the "Respondent"), an unregistered professional individual tax preparer. Upon review of the complaint and a subsequent investigation, the Board determined that administrative charges against the Respondent were appropriate. On or about November 10, 2016, the Board issued a Notice of Charges and Order for Hearing (incorporated by reference herein) alleging that the Respondent engaged in certain violations of the Maryland Individual Tax Preparers Act. The parties enter into this Consent Order as a full and final resolution of this matter, with terms as follows:

THE PARTIES AGREE AND STIPULATE:

1. The Respondent is not currently and has never been registered with the Board to provide services as an individual tax preparer in Maryland. At all times relevant to the matters set forth in this Consent Order, the Board had jurisdiction over the subject matter.

2. On or about February 8, 2016, a complaint was filed with the Board by the Comptroller alleging that, as a professional tax preparer, the Respondent began filing Maryland individual tax returns for 2015 on behalf of taxpayers on or about January 19, 2016.

3. Upon receipt of the Comptroller's complaint and a subsequent Board investigation, it was determined that the Respondent provided individual tax preparation services to Maryland taxpayers during 2015 and 2016 while not registered with the Board. From approximately January 15, 2016 through February 1, 2016, the Respondent filed at least 32 Maryland individual tax returns (Form 502) for the 2015 tax year. Further, from approximately October 5, 2015 through October 12, 2015, the Respondent filed at least 2 Maryland individual tax returns for the 2014 tax year.

4. Based on the aforementioned facts, the Respondent admits to violations of Md. Ann. Code, Business Occupations and Professions Article ("BOP"), §§ 21-301 and 21-401 as alleged in the Notice of Charges and Order for Hearing.

5. As a result of his violations, the Respondent agrees to pay a total civil penalty to the Board in the amount of **\$1500.00** in accordance with the following schedule:

	<u>Payment Amount</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
i)	\$ 375.00	1/6/17
ii)	\$ 375.00	2/6/17
iii)	\$ 375.00	3/6/17
iv)	\$ 375.00	4/6/17
Total	<u>\$ 1500.00</u>	

6. The Board's records reflect that the Respondent passed the Board's required examination on or about December 5, 2016.

7. The Respondent agrees that he shall not provide, offer, or attempt to provide individual tax preparation services in Maryland until such time as he is properly registered with the Board and that he shall make prompt and diligent efforts to become registered.

8. The Respondent shall be required to pay the 1<sup>st</sup> payment amount of \$375.00 in accordance with Paragraph 5 of this Consent Order prior to becoming registered with the Board. In the event that the Respondent obtains a registration issued by the Board, his failure to make any of the required payments in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order shall result in the immediate and automatic suspension of his registration until such time as the required payment is made.

9. The Respondent shall obtain 4 continuing professional education (CPE) credits in the subject matter area of Ethics prior to becoming registered with the Board. The CPE credits obtained in accordance with this paragraph shall be above and beyond any normal statutory or regulatory CPE requirements and, in the event that the Respondent obtains a registration with the Board, shall not be credited toward any future renewal period. The Respondent shall furnish documentary evidence of satisfactory completion of the CPE training prior to becoming registered with the Board.

10. The Respondent shall abide by the provisions of the Maryland Individual Tax Preparers Act and applicable regulations in all relevant future activities.

11. The Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Consent Order shall constitute a Final Order of the Board and shall be enforceable as such.

12. The Respondent, by entering into this Consent Order, expressly waives the right to an administrative hearing, any and all further proceedings before the Board to which he may otherwise be entitled in this matter, and any rights to appeal from this Order.

13. The Respondent enters into this Consent Order freely, knowingly and voluntarily, and

with the opportunity to seek advice of counsel.

BASED ON THESE STIPULATIONS, IT IS, THIS 6 DAY OF January, 2017, BY THE MARYLAND BOARD OF INDIVIDUAL TAX PREPARERS:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent has violated BOP, §§ 21-301 and 21-401;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$1500.00 to the Board in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 5 of this Consent Order;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Respondent shall comply with all required terms and conditions of this Consent Order prior to becoming registered with the Board;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this matter shall be resolved in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order, and that the same shall be reflected among the records of the Board;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order shall constitute a Final Order of the Maryland Board of Individual Tax Preparers.

## Signature on File

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dante Hicks  
Respondent

01/06/2017  
Date

## Signature on File

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Fredric "Robert" Bader, Chairperson  
Maryland Board of Individual  
Tax Preparers

1-13-17  
Date

FRB/kmk