

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 3197 Disciplinary Docket No. 3
	:	
Petitioner	:	No. 143 DB 2025
	:	
v.	:	Attorney Registration No. 94707
	:	
	:	(Lycoming County)
TIMOTHY REITZ,	:	
	:	
Respondent	:	

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 6th day of July, 2026, upon consideration of the Recommendation of the Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board, the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent is granted, and Timothy Reitz is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of three years. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217 and pay costs to the Disciplinary Board. See Pa.R.D.E. 208(g).

A True Copy Nicole Traini
As Of 07/06/2026

Attest: 
Chief Clerk
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 143 DB 2025
Petitioner :

v. :

TIMOTHY REITZ, :
Respondent :

Atty. Registration No. 94707
(Lycoming County)

JOINT PETITION IN SUPPORT OF DISCIPLINE ON CONSENT
PURSUANT TO Pa.R.D.E. 215(d)

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (hereinafter "ODC"), by Thomas J. Farrell, Esquire, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and Jennifer E. Tobias, Esquire, Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, Timothy Reitz, Esquire, who is represented by Thomas J. Zimmerman, Esquire and Paul C. Troy, Esquire, file this Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent under Rule 215(d) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (hereinafter "Pa.R.D.E.") and respectfully state and aver the following:

1. ODC, whose principal office is situated at Pennsylvania Judicial Center, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 2700, P.O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106, is invested, pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 207, with the power and duty to investigate all matters involving alleged

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The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

misconduct of any attorney admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of said Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

2. Respondent, Timothy Reitz, was born in 1975, and was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on April 27, 2005. Respondent's Attorney Registration number is 94707. His address of record is 1195 Mill Road, Allenwood, PA 17810.

3. Respondent is currently administratively suspended pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule for Continuing Legal Education 111(b).

4. Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 201(a)(1), Respondent is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

SPECIFIC FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS ADMITTED

Charge 1: Complaint of Adrienne Stahl, Esquire

5. On March 6, 2024, Respondent was appointed to represent B.M. in three dependency matters in Lycoming County involving her children.

6. Respondent was aware that B.M. was a particularly vulnerable client, as she shared with Respondent that she was a victim of domestic abuse.

7. As B.M.'s attorney, Respondent held a position of trust and power.

8. On March 8, 2024, Respondent met B.M. for the first time when Respondent attended a shelter care hearing on behalf of B.M.

9. After the March 8, 2024 hearing, Respondent and B.M. began to communicate via text messaging.

10. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the text messages exchanged with B.M. were sexually suggestive, and inappropriate.

11. At the time Respondent represented B.M., he did not have an office, and Respondent would meet clients at different locations.

12. On at least three different occasions, Respondent met B.M. at a private residence where B.M. was staying at the time.

13. Respondent and B.M. engaged in sexual relations.

14. "Sexual relations" as prohibited by RPC 1.8(j) includes but is not limited to, exchanging communications of a sexual nature.

15. On one occasion, B.M.'s friend returned home unexpectedly.

16. After Respondent left B.M.'s residence, B.M. texted Respondent stating she was "so sorry I didn't know she was stopping over today," to which Respondent replied "I have a problem to take care of now."

17. B.M. then sent Respondent a topless photo of herself, to which

Respondent texted in response, "Now I'm gonna wreck."

18. Respondent was aware that his text messages to B.M. were inappropriate.

19. Respondent did not have an existing consensual relationship with B.M. prior to his appointment by the court and agreement to act as B.M.'s attorney.

20. Respondent knew or should have known that engaging in or attempting to engage in sexual relations with a client, including by exchanging communications of a sexual nature, is expressly prohibited by the Rules of Professional Conduct.

21. Respondent was aware of the imbalance of power between himself and B.M.; however, Respondent persisted in pursuing an inappropriate sexual relationship with B.M.

22. Respondent's professional responsibility to B.M. in dependency proceedings involving her children was materially limited by his own personal interest in securing a personal and inappropriate relationship with B.M., and created an impermissible conflict of interest.

23. By his conduct as alleged in Paragraphs 5 through 22, above, Respondent violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- a. RPC 1.7(a)(2) which states that except as provided in paragraph (b), a lawyer shall not represent a client if the representation involves a concurrent conflict of interest. A concurrent conflict of interest exists if: there is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, a former client or a third person or by a personal interest of the lawyer.
- b. RPC 1.8(j) which states that a lawyer shall not have sexual relations with a client unless a consensual relationship existed between them when the client-lawyer relationship commenced.
- c. RPC 1.8(j) *via* RPC 8.4(a), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Charge II: Complaint of Megan Wells, Esquire

24. In or about October 2023, Respondent was appointed Guardian Ad Litem ("GAL") to represent L.G.'s son in a custody matter in Tioga County, Pennsylvania between L.G. and the child's father.

25. Respondent was aware of his duty as GAL, pursuant to 23 Pa.C.S. §5334, to represent the best interests of the child.

26. One of the tasks assigned to Respondent as GAL was to provide an independent assessment of the parental relationships, focusing on the best interests of the child, to assist the Court in making a determination for custody.

27. Respondent was aware that as GAL, Respondent should avoid any actions that could compromise his objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

28. Throughout Respondent's representation of L.G.'s son, Respondent made comments to L.G. about her physical appearance, as well as comments of a sexual nature.

29. On or about October 6, 2023, Respondent began communicating with L.G. via text messages.

30. Respondent acknowledges and agrees he sent offensive and inappropriate text messages to L.G., including but not limited to the following statements on the dates indicated:

- "Well, you don't wanna overheat yourself. But you can't be flashing people...it's a family resort" (October 27, 2023);
- "It's ok I hide my flipper too" (October 29, 2023);
- "Well I may have some raunchy jokes pinging in my head" (October 30, 2023);

- “Well my head may always have a foot in the gutter...” (October 30, 2023);
- “LOL they look pretty puckered” (November 2, 2023);
- “Lol I was gonna put a joke in there but will bite my tongue... Lol it was inappropriate... Not today I’m not up there but I will let you know... When I’m coming (with a laughing emoji) (November 3, 2023);
- “Sorry but warned you it was inappropriate” (November 3, 2023);
- “I’ll try to keep my gutter brain to a minimum” (November 3, 2023);
- “Or you in assless chaps. Sorry but could not resist” (November 3, 2023);
- “Feel free to accidentally send pics lol” (November 4, 2023);
- “Hmmm Very Nice? Even if not exactly what I was hoping for... Lol” (November 4, 2023);
- “I will use my imagination....Gutter mind kept to myself” (November 7, 2023).

31. Respondent’s text messages to L.G. as outlined above in ¶30 were not relevant to Respondent’s role as GAL for L.G.’s son and did not relate to the custody case.

32. Respondent was aware of L.G.'s vulnerability to Respondent's advances because of his status as her son's GAL and his responsibility for making a custodial recommendation to the court.

33. Respondent knew that L.G. understood that as counsel for her son, he was in a position to make a recommendation to the court that could considerably impact her custody case.

34. Respondent mentioned the GAL report to L.G. in his text messages.

35. During his representation of L.G.'s son, Respondent became aware of a "sex tape" involving the child's father and a woman.

36. Respondent requested L.G. send the sex tape to him for his review.

37. L.G. reported to her attorney, Rita Alexyn, Esquire, that she began to feel uncomfortable with Respondent's text messages to her.

38. Ms. Alexyn telephoned Respondent and reported that her client was uncomfortable with him continuing as GAL in the case.

39. On November 21, 2023, Respondent filed a Motion to Withdraw as GAL for L.G.'s son.

40. On December 6, 2023, the assigned custody conference Officer, Richard McCoy, Esquire, convened a conference to address the custody matter.

41. After the conference, Mr. McCoy provided the Court with a report and recommendation, including a recommendation that Respondent be discharged as GAL.

42. On December 6, 2023, the Court entered an Order adopting and approving Mr. McCoy's recommendation, including discharging Respondent from his role as GAL.

43. By his conduct as alleged in paragraphs 24 through 42, above, Respondent violated the following Rule of Professional Conduct:

- a. RPC 1.7(a)(2) which states that except as provided in paragraph (b), a lawyer shall not represent a client if the representation involves a concurrent conflict of interest. A concurrent conflict of interest exists if: there is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, a former client or a third person or by a personal interest of the lawyer.

SPECIFIC JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

44. ODC and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent's admitted misconduct is a three-year suspension.

45. Respondent hereby consents to the discipline being imposed upon him by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

46. Attached to this Petition is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Pa.R.D.E. 215(d), stating that he consents to the recommended discipline and including the mandatory acknowledgements contained in Pa.R.D.E. 215(d)(1)-(4).

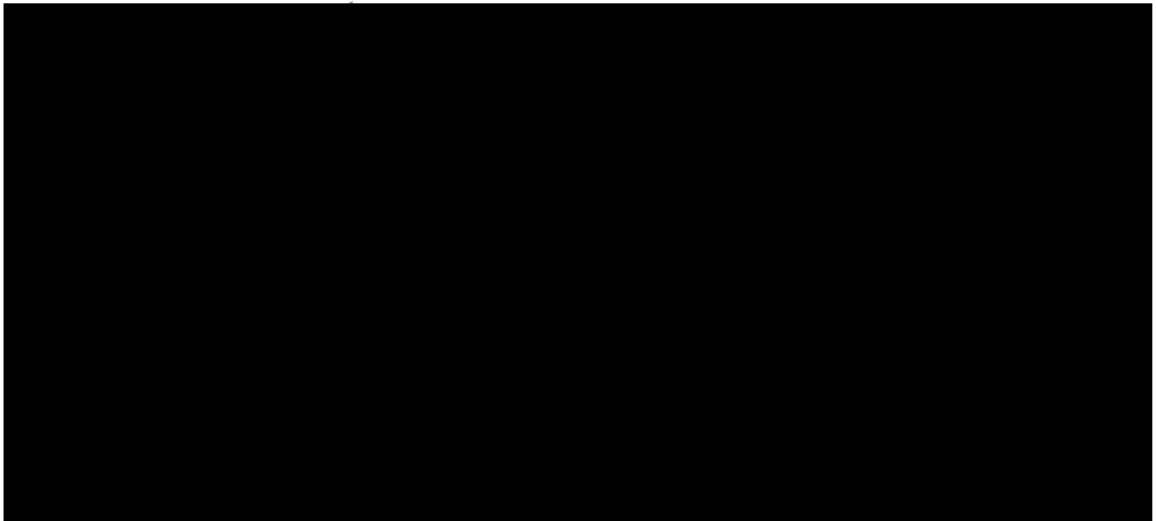
47. In support of the Joint Petition, the parties respectfully submit that the following mitigating circumstances are present:

- a. Respondent admits engaging in misconduct and violating the charged Rules of Professional Conduct;
- b. Respondent is remorseful and understands that his actions warrant the imposition of discipline, as is evidenced by his agreement to enter into this Joint Petition;
- c. Respondent apologizes for the harm that his misconduct caused to B.M., L.G. and the legal profession; and
- d. by agreeing to this Joint Petition, Respondent has spared B.M. and L.G. the embarrassment, anxiety, and stress

associated with testifying in a public proceeding.

48. In support of the Joint Petition, ODC and Respondent submit that the following are aggravating factors in this case:

- a. Respondent misused a position of trust to take advantage of a vulnerable client and an interested party, both of whom depended on Respondent's representation in serious legal matters; and



49. Petitioner and Respondent believe the joint recommendation for a three-year suspension is consistent with other comparable cases involving attorneys who misuse a position of trust to solicit and to engage in inappropriate sexual relations with a client or interested party.

Disciplinary precedent in cases involving attorneys whose actions violated RPC 1.8(j) and/or RPC 1.7(a)(2) supports a three-year suspension.

In the recent matter of *ODC v. Brian Dooley Kent*, 37 DB 2025 (D. Bd. Rpt.

5/5/2025)(S. Ct. Order 5/23/2025), Kent received a three-year suspension, with two years stayed and two-years probation, on consent, for engaging in sexual relations with a vulnerable client. In mitigation, Kent produced *Braun* evidence and had no prior discipline. Like *Kent*, Respondent's conduct supports a three-year suspension; however, unlike *Kent*, Respondent has not produced any *Braun* evidence in mitigation.

In ***ODC v. Charles Shainberg***, No. 41 DB 2022 (S.Ct. Order 10/13/22), the Court approved a one-year suspension, on consent, where Shainberg repeatedly making sexually explicit comments to a female client and had nonconsensual sexual contact with her. In aggravation, the client was vulnerable due to an abusive marriage, limited financial resources, and was dependent on Shainberg to represent her in divorce proceedings. Unlike Respondent, Shainberg did not involve misconduct in multiple matters, and he had no prior discipline. In the matter of ***ODC v. Jonathan Altman***, 228 A.2d 508 (Pa. 2020), the Court ordered disbarment for Altman's misconduct involving sexual relations with one vulnerable client on five occasions, giving the client money, and blaming the victim for coming on to him. Altman had no record of prior discipline. Similarly, in ***ODC v. Edwin L. London***, Nos. 119 & 171 DB 2014 (D.Bd. Rpt. 8/25/2015) (S.Ct. Order 10/22/2005) the Court ordered London's disbarment, based on his

misconduct involving unwanted sexual relations with four clients in his law office. London's conduct, singling out vulnerable clients who needed his services, was aggravating.

The Supreme Court has stressed that "[t]he relationship [between a lawyer and a client] is almost always unequal" and that a sexual relationship between the lawyer and the client "can involve unfair exploitation of the lawyer's fiduciary role, in violation of the lawyer's basic ethical obligation not to use the trust of the client to the client's disadvantage." *ODC v. Jonathan Altman*, *supra*, 228 A.2d at 518. As such, RPC 1.8(j) prohibits a lawyer from having sexual relations with a client regardless of whether the relationship is consensual and regardless of prejudice to the client. *Id.* On October 9, 2024, effective November 8, 2024, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court amended RPC 1.8(j) to make clear that "'Sexual Relations' includes, but is not limited to, communications of a sexual nature."

50. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that if this matter were to proceed to hearing, he would be unable to successfully defend against allegations that he engaged in sexual relations with B.M. and that such conduct violated RPC 1.8(j). Respondent concedes his conduct, including text communications of a sexual nature with B.M., was improper and violated RPC 1.8(j).

51. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that his conduct violated RPC 1.7(a)(2), which prohibits improper conflict of interest in representing a client. Respondent's representation of B.M. in three dependency matters involving her children was materially limited by his own personal interest in securing a personally gratifying relationship with B.M. Likewise, in the course of acting as GAL to L.G.'s son in a custody matter, Respondent engaged in an impermissible conflict of interest prohibited by RPC 1.7(a)(2) because his role as GAL, representing the interests of L.G., was materially limited by his own personal interest in pursuing a personally gratifying relationship with L.G.'s mother.

52. It is well settled that the primary purpose of the disciplinary system is to protect the public from unfit attorneys and to maintain the integrity of the legal system. *ODC v. John J. Keller*, 506 A.2d 872, 875 (Pa. 1986). In determining what discipline is appropriate, each attorney discipline case is evaluated on its own unique facts and circumstances. *ODC v. Robert S. Lucarini*, 472 A.2d 186, 190 (Pa. 1983).

53. ODC and Respondent agree that a lengthy suspension is warranted based on Respondent's misconduct. Respondent acknowledges that his misconduct warrants serious discipline.

54. ODC and Respondent jointly submit that a three-year suspension from the Bar of this Commonwealth is appropriate discipline for Respondent's inappropriate communications of a sexual nature in two matters, resulting in violations of RPC 1.7 (a)(2), RPC 1.8(j) and RPC 1.8(j) *via* RPC 8.4(a). This period of time will require Respondent to file a Petition for Reinstatement and prove his fitness, should he seek to return to active status.

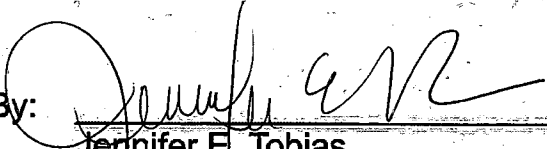
WHEREFORE, ODC and Respondent respectfully request, pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(e), 215(g) and 215(i), a three-member panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent and file a recommendation with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania that Respondent receive a three-year suspension and pay the necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter within 30 days of notice of the taxed expenses.

Respectfully submitted,


OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Thomas J. Farrell
Chief Disciplinary Counsel


Date: 5/21/26

By: 
Jennifer E. Tobias
Disciplinary Counsel

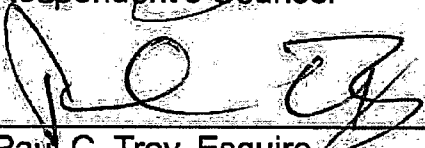
Date: 5/14/2026

By: 
Timothy Reitz, Esquire
Respondent

Date: 5/20/26

By: 
Thomas J. Zimmerman, Esquire
Respondent's Counsel

Date: 5/20/26

By: 
Paul C. Troy, Esquire
Respondent's Counsel

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,
Petitioner

: No. 143 DB 2025

v.

TIMOTHY REITZ,
Respondent

: Atty. Registration No. 94707
: (Lycoming County)

VERIFICATION

The statements contained in the foregoing *Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Under Pa.R.D.E. 215(d)* are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief and are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: 5/21/26

By:


Jennifer E. Tobias
Disciplinary Counsel

Date: 5/19/2020

By:


Timothy Reitz, Esquire
Respondent

Date: 5/21/26

By:


Thomas J. Zimmerman, Esquire
Respondent's Counsel

Date: 5/21/26

By:


Paul C. Troy, Esquire
Respondent's Counsel

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,
Petitioner

: No. 143 DB 2025

v.

TIMOTHY REITZ,
Respondent

: Atty. Registration No. 94707
: (Lycoming County)

**AFFIDAVIT UNDER RULE 215(d) OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA RULES OF DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT**

Timothy Reitz, Respondent in the above-captioned matter, hereby submits this affidavit consenting to the imposition of a three-year suspension and further states as follows:


1. He is an attorney admitted to the Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on April 27, 2005.
2. He desires to submit a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d);
3. His consent is freely and voluntarily rendered; he is not being subjected to coercion or duress; he is fully aware of the implications of submitting this affidavit;
4. He is aware that there is presently pending a proceeding regarding allegations that he has been guilty of misconduct as set forth in the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d) to which this affidavit is attached;
5. He acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true;
6. He submits this affidavit because he knows that if charges predicated upon the matter continued to be prosecuted in the pending proceeding, he could not successfully

defend against them;

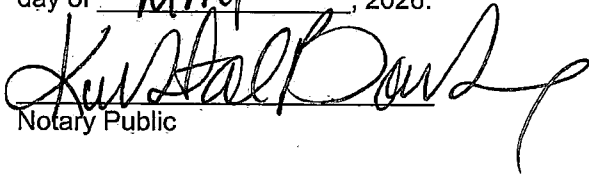
7. He acknowledges that he is fully aware of his right to consult and employ counsel to represent him in the instant proceeding and has retained, consulted, and acted upon the advice of Thomas Zimmerman, Esquire, and Paul C. Troy, Esquire, in his decision to execute the within Joint Petition.

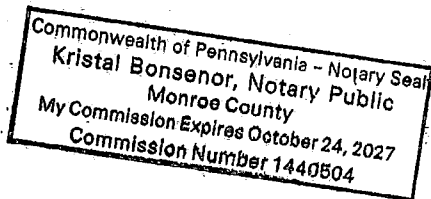
It is understood that the statements made herein are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: 5/14/2026

By: 
Timothy Reitz
Respondent

Subscribed and sworn
before me on this 14
day of MAY, 2026.

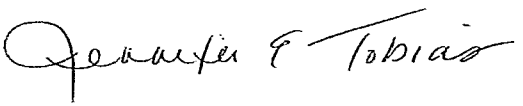

Notary Public



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Signature: 

Name: Jennifer E. Tobias

Attorney No. (if applicable): 82816