

**BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, Petitioner	:	No. 39 DB 2026
	:	
v.	:	File Nos. C3-25-388 & C3-25-451
	:	
KATIE JAMES MAXWELL	:	Attorney Registration No. 206018
	:	
Respondent	:	(Cumberland County)

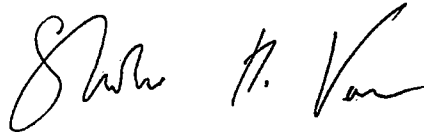
ORDER

AND NOW, this 1st day of April 2026, in accordance with Rule 208(a)(5), Pa.R.D.E., the determination by a Review Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the above captioned matter is accepted; and it is

ORDERED that KATIE JAMES MAXWELL of Cumberland County be subjected to a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(b) and Rule 205(c)(8) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:



Board Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD
Attest:



Marcee D. Sloan
Board Prothonotary
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 39 DB 2026
Petitioner	:	
	:	File Nos. C3-25-388 & C3-25-451
	:	
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 206018
KATIE JAMES MAXWELL,	:	
Respondent	:	(Cumberland County)

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Katie James Maxwell, you appear before the Disciplinary Board for the imposition of a Public Reprimand ordered by the Board on April 1, 2026. By letter of that same date, the Board notified you of the disposition of this matter and further notified you of your opportunity to demand as of right the institution of formal charges within twenty days of the date of notification. You did not demand the institution of formal charges; therefore, you accept this public reprimand.

It is an unpleasant task to publicly reprimand one who has been granted the privilege of membership in the bar of the Commonwealth. Yet as repugnant as this task may be, it has been found necessary that you receive this public discipline.

Attorney Maxwell, the record sets forth your misconduct in two client matters. In the Brian Vasquez matter, in October 2024, you were court-appointed to represent your client in perfecting his appeal with the Superior Court. You failed to file an appeal on behalf of Mr. Vasquez. In February 2025, your client wrote to you requesting an update on his appeal; you never responded. On February 11, 2025, the Superior Court issued an order dismissing the appeal for failure to file a brief. You were directed to file a certification that you had notified your client of the dismissal. You failed to inform your

client of the dismissal or file the required certification with the Superior Court.

In the Neal McCawley matter, in September 2024, you were court-appointed to represent your client in perfecting his appeal with the Superior Court. On October 21, 2024, you PAC-filed a petition for leave to withdraw as counsel along with an *Anders* brief. You failed to file a paper version of the brief and the requested number of copies with the Superior Court. On November 7, 2024, the Superior Court Prothonotary contacted you by letter requesting that you file the paper copies. You failed to comply. On November 18, 2024, the Superior Court directed you to file a paper version of the brief and copies within seven days. Again, you failed to comply. By Order of January 2, 2025, the Superior Court struck the PAC-filed brief. The Court later remanded the matter to the trial court for the purpose of determining whether you had abandoned your client. A hearing was held on April 15, 2025, at which the judge found that the relationship between you and your client was “irrevocably broken” and appointed new counsel for Mr. McCawley.

In September 2025, Office of Disciplinary Counsel sent a DB-7 letter of inquiry to you in both matters. You failed to timely respond.

By your conduct, you violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct (“RPC”) and Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (“Pa.R.D.E.”):

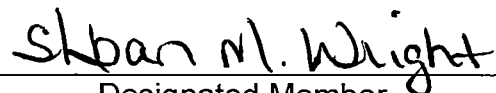
1. RPC 1.1 – A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client.
2. RPC 1.3 – A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.
3. RPC 1.4(a)(3) – A lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter.

4. RPC 1.4(a)(4) – A lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
5. RPC 3.2 – A lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation consistent with the interests of the client.
6. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(7) - Failure by a respondent-attorney without good cause to respond to Disciplinary Counsel's request or supplemental request under Disciplinary Board Rules, Section 87.7(b), for a statement of the respondent-attorney's position shall be grounds for discipline.

Attorney Maxwell, your conduct in this matter is public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record and shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at www.padisdisciplinaryboard.org.

It is the Board's duty to reprimand you for your misconduct. We note that you have a record of prior discipline consisting of an informal admonition. Please be aware that subsequent violations of the rules may result in further discipline and more severe sanctions. We sincerely hope that you will conduct yourself in such a manner that future disciplinary action will be unnecessary.

This concludes the reprimand.



Designated Member
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Administered by a designated panel of three Members of The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on July 9, 2026.