#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY : No. 3150 Disciplinary Docket No. 3

COUNSEL,

No. 57 DB 2025

Petitioner

NO. 57 DB 20

Attorney Registration No. 323677

٧.

(Erie County)

TYLER ALAN LINDQUIST,

:

Respondent

### **ORDER**

#### **PER CURIAM**

**AND NOW**, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025, 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 Tyler Alan Lindquist is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of one year and one day. The suspension is stayed in its entirety, and Respondent is placed on probation for a period of two years, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Nicole Sloane Kondrlik, Esquire, is appointed to monitor Respondent in his law practice, specifically, through his employment as an assistant public defender in Erie County, Pennsylvania;
  - 2. Attorney Sloane Kondrlik shall do the following during Respondent's probation:
    - a. Meet with Respondent every other week;
    - b. Obtain the status of each of Respondent's cases and discuss, examine, and review each case with Respondent, which will include, *inter alia*, all pending deadlines and court appearances, all discovery requests, and all

- client communications to ensure that Respondent timely replies to his clients' reasonable requests;
- c. Discuss with Respondent any attorney/client concerns, outstanding requests from clients, and scheduling of client meetings/visitations if required;
- d. Ensure that Respondent has worked on cases in a reasonably prompt and diligent manner; and
- e. File quarterly written reports with the Disciplinary Board and Disciplinary Counsel in which Attorney Sloane Kondrlik will include the following:
  - i. whether she met with Respondent every other week;
  - ii. whether Respondent has abided by the Rules of Professional Conduct; and
  - iii. whether Attorney Sloane Kondrlik has any concerns about Respondent's practice of law.
- 3. Respondent shall participate and comply with any ongoing mental health treatment, including taking prescribed medication as recommended by Respondent's health care provider(s). Respondent agrees, upon request, to provide the Office of Disciplinary Counsel with verification of his compliance with the recommendation(s) of his health care provider(s).
- 4. Respondent shall file quarterly written reports with the Disciplinary Board and Office of Disciplinary Counsel certifying that he is in compliance with his healthcare provider's recommended prescription regimen; and

5. Any violations of the terms of Respondent's probation will result in the Office of

Disciplinary Counsel seeking a Court order imposing a suspension of one year and one

day.

It is further ordered that Respondent shall pay the costs incurred by the Disciplinary

Board in the investigation and prosecution of this matter.

A True Copy Nicole Traini As Of 12/30/2025

Attest: Muse Jaini
Chief Clerk
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

# BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,:

Petitioner

No. 57 DB 2025

٧.

TYLER ALAN LINDQUIST.

: Attorney Registration No. 323677

Respondent

: (Erie County)

# JOINT PETITION IN SUPPORT OF DISCIPLINE ON CONSENT UNDER RULE 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, by Thomas J. Farrell, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and Susan N. Dobbins, Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, Tyler Alan Lindquist, Esquire, file this Joint Petition In Support Of Discipline On Consent Under Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E. and respectfully represent as follows:

1. Petitioner, whose principal office is located at Pennsylvania Judicial Center, Suite 2700, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, P. O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106-2485, is invested, pursuant to Rule 207 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (hereafter "Pa.R.D.E."), with the power and the duty to investigate all matters involving alleged misconduct of an attorney admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of

FILED 11/05/2025

The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of the aforesaid Rules.

- 2. Respondent, Tyler Alan Lindquist, was born in 1991. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on April 13, 2017.
- 3. Respondent's attorney registration mailing address is 807 E. Grandview Boulevard, Apt 202, Erie PA 16504.
  - 4. Respondent is presently on active status.
- 5. Respondent is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

# SPECIFIC FACTUAL ADMISSIONS

# THE DAUGHENBAUGH MATTER

- 6. On or about January 25, 2022, Respondent met with Walter Daughenbaugh about representing him in his divorce and master's hearing in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania.
- 7. Mr. Daughenbaugh entered into a Flat Fee Agreement with Respondent which indicated, among other things, that he agreed to pay Respondent a non-refundable flat fee, in the amount of \$10,000, for a divorce and master's hearing.

- 8. On February 7, 2022, Mr. Daughenbaugh paid \$5,000.00 toward Respondent's representation of him.
- 9. On March 4, 2022, Respondent represented Mr. Daughenbaugh at a divorce bifurcation hearing.
- 10. In March of 2022, Mr. Daughenbaugh discussed with Respondent about sending interrogatories to James Moran, Esquire, who represented Mr. Daughenbaugh's wife, Anna Daughenbaugh.
- 11. Thereafter, Respondent did not send the interrogatories to Attorney Moran.
- 12. On several occasions, Mr. Daughenbaugh requested from Respondent copies of the interrogatories that Respondent was supposed to have sent to Attorney Moran.
- 13. Respondent informed Mr. Daughenbaugh that Respondent would file a Motion to Compel, if needed.
- 14. On or about May 3, 2022, Mr. Daughenbaugh paid an additional \$1,000.00,toward Respondent's retainer.
- 15. On May 24, 2022, Respondent filed a Praecipe to Transmit Record on behalf of Mr. Daughenbaugh in his divorce matter.

- 16. By letter dated June 2, 2022. Rebecca L. Humphrey, Esquire, Deputy Court Administrator, informed Respondent, in regard to the Daughenbaughs' divorce, that:
  - (a) After review of the Praecipe to Transmit and previously filed documents, the 3301(c) divorce in the Daughenbaugh matter could not be granted because Plaintiff's Affidavit of Consent was not filed, and Plaintiff's Waiver or Notice of Intention to file Praecipe to Transmit Record was not filed;
    - (b) All corrections should be forwarded to the Prothonotary;
    - (c) Please address these matters by July 3, 2022;
  - (d) In the event the corrections have not been completed by the above stated date, the Praecipe to Transmit may be dismissed without prejudice by court order; and
  - (e) The moving party would then be permitted to re-praecipe and pay a requisite fee upon completion of any and all corrections.
- 17. Respondent did not notify Mr. Daughenbaugh about the June 2,2022 letter from the Deputy Court Administrator.
- 18. Respondent did not have Attorney Moran file the requisite documents so the divorce could be granted.

- 19. On June 15, 2022, Respondent filed a Petition for Contempt of Custody Order on behalf of Mr. Daughenbaugh with a proposed Rule to Show Cause. A hearing on the Petition was held on July 13, 2022.
- 20. In about mid-July of 2022, Mr. Daughenbaugh requested that Respondent file a Petition for Modification of Custody.
- 21. Respondent did not file the requested petition; on August 9, 2022 Attorney Moran filed a petition on behalf of his client, Anna Daughenbaugh.
- 22. On August 8, 2022, David E. Wenger, III., Esquire, filed his entry of appearance on behalf of Mr. Daughenbaugh for the issue of divorce only.
- 23. On August 12, 2022, Respondent filed an Answer to the Petition for Modification of Custody Order and New Matter on behalf of Mr. Daughenbaugh.
- 24. On August 29, 2022, Mr. Daughenbaugh requested that Respondent file for a Guardian Ad Litem for the children, but Respondent did not do so.
- 25. By email dated September 15, 2022, Mr. Daughenbaugh's significant other, Jennifer McIntyre, on his behalf, requested from Respondent an update on the:
  - (a) Judge's 2019 De Novo Opinion & now 2022 De Novo Opinion;

- (b) Guardian Ad Litem; and
- (c) Written Proposal Offer.
- 26. Respondent did not respond to Ms. McIntyre's September 15, 2022 email or contact Mr. Daughenbaugh directly.
- 27. By Order of Court dated September 19, 2022, the Praecipe to Transmit Record in the Daughenbaughs' action was dismissed without prejudice, with the moving party permitted to re-praecipe for divorce and pay a requisite fee on completion of any and all corrections.
- 28. By letter dated October 13, 2022, Mr. Daughenbaugh informed Respondent, among other things, that:
  - (a) Due to Respondent's lack of action and communication he had to retain additional counsel to handle his custody modification matters;
  - (b) As Respondent was aware, he previously replaced Respondent on his divorce and economic matters due to Respondent's lack of action and communication;
  - (c) There had been several instances of Respondent acting in a manner contrary to his wishes as a client;
  - (d) He was demanding a refund of \$4,500.00 of the total \$6,500 [sic] paid for Respondent's services;

- (e) The legal services that he requested in February 2022 and believed he was to receive as Respondent's client had not been adequately provided by Respondent;
- (f) He deemed this to be a gross misrepresentation of Respondent's stated professional services and outright failure to represent him in his divorce and custody case;
- (g) The reasons he had to seek additional counsel to handle his divorce, master's hearing and now custody modification issues were listed below; and
- (h) He requested a response by return email by close of business Monday, 17 October 2022.
- 29. By cashier's check dated October 24, 2022, Respondent refunded to Mr. Daughenbaugh \$2,500.00 of the \$6,000.00 that he paid to Respondent.
- 30. Respondent was sent a DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position in this matter dated June 7, 2023. Respondent requested an extension of time to reply and did so by letter dated August 7, 2023.

## THE MUSGRAVE MATTER

- 31. On October 25, 2022, Timothy E. Musgrave met with Respondent and retained him to finalize Mr. Musgrave's pending divorce.
- 32. Mr. Musgrave entered into a Flat Fee Agreement with Respondent which indicated, among other things, that:
  - (a) Respondent was to represent him in his divorce matter; and
  - (b) He agreed to pay Respondent a non-refundable flat fee in the amount of \$2,500 to finalize his divorce matter.
  - 33. On October 25, 2022, Mr. Musgrave paid Respondent \$2,500.00.
- 34. At that time, Respondent informed Mr. Musgrave that Respondent could have Mr. Musgrave's divorce finalized in 30 days if both sides were cooperative.
- 35. Thereafter, Respondent did not enter his appearance on behalf of Mr. Musgrave in his divorce matter in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania at docket number 2021-12110.
- 36. In late November or early December 2022, Mr. Musgrave called Respondent about the status of his divorce, but Respondent did not reply.
- 37. In early December of 2022, Mr. Musgrave contacted a representative of Sebald, Hackwelder & Knox, the law firm where

Respondent was employed at the time and stated he was having a hard time getting a hold of Respondent.

- 38. The next day Respondent called Mr. Musgrave and informed him that Respondent was waiting on a response from his wife's attorney, Patrick Kelley, Esquire.
- 39. Respondent did not at that time or thereafter contact Attorney Kelley about Mr. Musgrave's divorce.
- 40. In or about the beginning of January 2023, Mr. Musgrave called Sebald, Hackwelder & Knox to speak with Respondent about the status of his divorce and was informed that Respondent was no longer with that law firm.
- 41. Shortly thereafter, Respondent contacted Mr. Musgrave and informed him that Respondent was no longer with Sebald, Hackwelder & Knox and gave Mr. Musgrave Respondent's new address.
- 42. In mid-January of 2023, Mr. Musgrave texted Respondent and requested that Respondent contact him about the status of his divorce.
- 43. On or about January 17, 2023, Respondent contacted Mr. Musgrave about signing a paper in regard to his divorce matter.

- 44. On January 18, 2023, Mr. Musgrave went to Respondent's office to sign the document, but Respondent's copier was not working in order to print a copy of the document.
- 45. On January 19, 2023, Respondent met with Mr. Musgrave at a Tim Horton's restaurant and had him sign the document.
- 46. At that time, Respondent informed Mr. Musgrave that Respondent was going to file the document the next day so that a hearing could be scheduled, however, he failed to do so.
- 47. On January 27, 2023, Mr. Musgrave texted Respondent about the status of his divorce.
- 48. Respondent replied that he was in court, and that he would get back to Mr. Musgrave.
  - 49. Thereafter, Respondent did not contact Mr. Musgrave.
- 50. Several weeks later, Mr. Musgrave texted and called Respondent, but Respondent did not respond to any of his inquiries.
- 51. On February 28, 2023, Mr. Musgrave texted Respondent and asked for a refund since Respondent was not moving his divorce forward.
  - 52. Respondent texted Mr. Musgrave that same day and told him that:
    - (a) Respondent had just passed the 30 days for his case;

- (b) Respondent was working on getting a hearing and Respondent should have a date by Friday; and
- (c) Respondent could not provide a refund, but Respondent assured him that he was still working on getting this done for him.
- 53. On March 13, 2023, Mr. Musgrave texted Respondent to find out if Respondent had scheduled a court date and if there was anything new.
- 54. By text dated March 14, 2023, Respondent informed Mr. Musgrave that Respondent was in court but should have something to report either that day or the next.
- 55. On March 24, 2023, Mr. Musgrave again texted Respondent and inquired about the status of his divorce but Respondent did not respond to his inquiry.
- 56. On March 30, 2023, Mr. Musgrave once again texted Respondent about the status of his divorce.
- 57. Respondent responded to Mr. Musgrave's text and informed him that Respondent should have a date for him the next day and that Respondent would send the date to him once that occurred.
- 58. Mr. Musgrave responded to Respondent's text and indicated that he thought Respondent was going to have a date for him "2 weeks ago".
  - 59. Respondent responded and told Mr. Musgrave that:

- (a) Respondent was waiting for the exact date;
- (b) It was all filed; and
- (c) Respondent would follow up with the Court tomorrow to make sure it was scheduled.
- 60. Respondent's representation to Mr. Musgrave that "it was all filed" was false as nothing had been filed of record as of that time either in the divorce action or the child support action.
- 61. On April 6, 2023, Mr. Musgrave again texted Respondent about the court date, but Respondent did not respond to Mr. Musgrave's inquiry.
- 62. By letter dated April 17, 2023, sent to Respondent by certified mail, Mr. Musgrave informed Respondent, among other things, that:
  - (a) He had decided to terminate Respondent immediately due to the lack of communication and performance;
  - (b) On October 25, 2022, he retained Respondent's services for \$2,500.00 that he paid in full;
  - (c) Respondent had advised him that it would be done in approximately 30 days;
  - (d) It was now almost six months later and Respondent had made no progress;

- (e) Respondent met with him on January 19, 2023 when he had signed paperwork which Respondent said that he would file the next day;
- (f) On February 28, 2023, he requested a refund due to no progress;
- (g) Respondent responded by text message that Respondent could not refund money and reassured him that Respondent was working on getting things done;
- (h) Respondent told him that Respondent filed paperwork at the courthouse and when Mr. Musgrave checked on April 10, 2023 with the prothonotary's office, there had been nothing filed;
  - (i) He was currently seeking new counsel to finish his divorce;
- (j) He requested that Respondent send to his address a copy of services Respondent had performed with the costs; and
  - (k) He was requesting a refund for services not performed.
- 63. On April 21, 2023, Respondent filed a Motion to Establish Grounds for Divorce on behalf of Mr. Musgrave.
- 64. Respondent filed the Motion to Establish Grounds for Divorce after Mr. Musgrave had terminated Respondent's representation.

- 65. On April 21, 2023, Respondent texted Mr. Musgrave and informed him that a hearing had been scheduled for May 19, 2023.
- 66. In the Motion to Establish Grounds for Divorce, Respondent indicated on the Certificate of Service that Respondent had served a copy on Attorney Kelley, counsel for Plaintiff, by courthouse mailbox and email.
- 67. Respondent did not serve a copy of the Motion to Establish Grounds for Divorce on Attorney Kelley by putting a copy in his courthouse mailbox or by email.
- 68. By text dated May 3, 2023, Mr. Musgrave asked Respondent if he had received Mr. Musgrave's certified letter and that he had retained other counsel; Respondent did not respond to Mr. Musgrave's text.
- 69. By text dated May 8, 2023, Mr. Musgrave asked Respondent if he could come and get his file from Respondent.
- 70. By text dated May 8, 2023, Respondent informed Mr. Musgrave that he was in Court that day, but that Mr. Musgrave could come by the next afternoon.
- 71. On May 16, 2023, Mr. Musgrave picked up his file from Respondent.

- 72. On May 30, 2023 Mr. Musgrave filed a civil action against Respondent at MJ-06102-CV-0000027-2023 in Erie County to recover the \$2,500 which he had paid to Respondent.
  - 73. Respondent ultimately refunded the \$2,500 to Mr. Musgrave.
- 74. Respondent was sent a DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position dated June 28, 2023. After requesting an extension of time, Respondent provided a response dated August 7, 2023 in this matter to Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

### THE PATZ MATTER

- 75. At docket number CP-62-CR-0000334-2019 in the Court of Common Pleas of Warren County, Pennsylvania, Kelly Eugene Patz was charged with two counts of Rape, Person Less than 13 Years Old, three counts of Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Person Less than 13 years old, one count of Unlawful Contact with Minor, two counts of Statutory Sexual Assault, two counts of Sexual Assault, and one count of Corruption of Minors.
- 76. Following a jury trial, Mr. Patz was found guilty of one count of Unlawful Contact with Minor, two counts of Statutory Sexual Assault, two counts of Sexual Assault, two counts of Endangering Welfare of Children and two counts of Corruption of Minors. Following the guilty verdict, Mr.

Patz's bond was revoked, and he was remanded to the Warren County prison.

- 77. On or about June 9, 2021, Mr. Patz hired Respondent's law firm, Sebald Hackwelder & Knox, to represent him in an appeal of his criminal conviction to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania (Superior Court). The firm had represented Mr. Patz in his criminal case in the trial court. Patz paid to the firm a non-refundable flat fee of \$25,000 for the appellate representation.
- 78. Respondent visited Mr. Patz at SCI-Mercer and advised him that Respondent would be responsible for representing him through the appeal.
- 79. On December 28, 2021, Respondent filed a Notice of Appeal to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. On January 28, 2022, Respondent filed a Concise Statement of Errors Complained of Pursuant to Pa.R.A.P. 1925(b).
- 80. On February 2, 2022, Judge Gregory J. Hammond issued a Memorandum Opinion Pursuant to Pa.R.A.P. 1925(a).
- 81. On February 9, 2022, Judge Hammond issued a Supplemental Memorandum Opinion Pursuant to Pa. R.A.P. 1925(a), finding, inter alia, that:
  - (a) The trial court was not served with the Notice of Appeal as required by Pa.R.A.P. 906(a)(2), despite the Certificate of

Service reflecting that the Notice of Appeal had been "Hand Delivered" to Chambers;

- (b) No Request for Transcripts pursuant to Pa.R.A.P. 904(c) and Pa.R.A.P. 1911 was made by Respondent;
- (c) No service of the Notice of Appeal was made upon the official court reporter of the trial court as required by Pa.R.A.P. 906(b)(3);
- (d) Respondent had informed the court reporter that no transcripts were being requested; and
- (e) He (Judge Hammond) was leaving to the discretion of the Superior Court the appropriate action to be taken.
- 82. After applying for and receiving an extension of time to file a brief, on July 11, 2022 Respondent filed a Brief and Reproduced Record on behalf of Mr. Patz with the Superior Court at docket number 1 WDA 2022.
- 83. By Notice from the Deputy Prothonotary of the Superior Court dated July 12, 2022, Respondent was advised to return a reply letter designating whether Respondent desired to have an oral argument in support of the brief he filed on behalf of Mr. Patz.

- 84. The reply letter was not returned to the Superior Court.

  Respondent did not otherwise request an oral argument on Mr. Patz's appeal.
- 85. By letter dated September 19, 2022, Respondent was advised that the appeal was listed for submission on briefs without oral argument.
- 86. On January 11, 2023, the Superior Court affirmed Mr. Patz's conviction in its non-precedential decision. In its Opinion, the Superior Court stated, *inter alia*, the following regarding the issues raised in the appeal:
  - (a) With regard to <u>Issue 1, Weight of the Evidence</u>, "The argument Appellant has presented in support of this claim is woefully underdeveloped. Although Appellant has provided citations to the record, he has provided no citations whatsoever to any authority regarding our standard of review of weight of the evidence claims and has failed to discuss the facts of this case in the context of relevant case law.... We cannot and will not act as Appellant's counsel and develop arguments on his behalf. Appellant's failure to develop his arguments has hampered this Court's ability to conduct meaningful appellate review of this issue."

(b) With regard to <u>Issue 3, Jury's Consideration of Conduct</u>

<u>Occurring Outside Charged Timeframe</u>, "Appellant has not identified the 'proof' or indicated whether or where he placed a contemporaneous objection to the admission of this 'proof' on the record, Appellant's failure to include this information in his Brief violates the Rules of Appellate Procedure and has impeded our ability to conduct meaningful appellate review. To undertake review of Appellant's issues would require us to scour the record and craft an argument on his behalf, which we will not do. This issue is therefore waived."

# (c) With regard to Issue 5, Statute of Limitations,

(i) "Appellant did not raise a statute of limitations defense in a pretrial motion or at any time before sentencing; rather he raised it for the first time in his Rule 1925(b) Statement. In light of the numerous cases stating that a statute of limitations defense must be raised in a pretrial motion, Appellant's claim regarding the inapplicability of Pa.R.Crim.P. 578 does not entitle him to relief."

- (ii) "Finally, Appellant argues that the expiration of the statute of limitations removed the trial court's subject matter jurisdiction.... This argument is legally invalid and, thus, merits no relief." And
- (d) With regard to <u>Issue 6</u>, <u>Sufficiency of the Evidence</u>, "[O]ur review of the record reveals that Appellant failed to raise a challenge to the sufficiency of the evidence in his Rule 1925(b) statement. Accordingly, it is waived."
- 87. Respondent failed to advise Mr. Patz of the Superior Court's decision, failed to send to Mr. Patz a copy of the Superior Court's decision, and failed to advise Mr. Patz of the options available to him following the Superior Court's decision.
- 88. Respondent was sent a DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position in this matter dated November 21, 2023. A reminder letter requesting a response to the DB7, a copy of which was enclosed, was sent to Respondent on January 24, 2024.
- 89. Respondent admits to having received the DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position but did not provide a response to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

## THE ALDERSON MATTER

- 90. On August 11, 2022, criminal charges were filed against Dwight Lamont Alderson in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania at docket number CR-1859-2022.
- 91. On December 29, 2022, additional criminal charges were filed against Mr. Alderson at docket number CR-3158-2022 in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania.
- 92. At docket number 3158-2022, Mr. Alderson applied for a Public Defender and Emily Stutz Antolik, Esquire, with the Erie County Public Defender's Office, was appointed to represent him in the criminal charges filed at that docket number.
- 93. On May 12, 2023, Attorney Antolik filed a Motion to Withdraw as Mr. Alderson's attorney and a hearing on the motion was scheduled for May 23, 2023.
- 94. On May 23, 2023, the Honorable Daniel J. Brabender, Jr., entered an Order granting Attorney Antolik's Motion to Withdraw as counsel for Mr. Alderson.
- 95. On May 23, 2023, Carlo Fachetti, Deputy Court Administrator in Erie County, sent Respondent an email and informed him that:

- (a) Attached was a copy of the original PDF and a copy of an Order granting a Motion to Withdraw;
- (b) Emily Antolik had been assigned as counsel but had now withdrawn;
- (c) He had attached [sic] Emily on the email in the event she could add any additional information;
  - (d) Mr. Alderson's case was scheduled for the June trial term;
- (e) The Order read for them to re-assign Outside Counsel; and
- (f) Respondent would probably need to file a motion to continue seeing that Respondent was just assigned to the case.
- 96. Thereafter, Respondent did not contact Mr. Alderson to discuss his case.
- 97. On May 31, 2023, Mr. Alderson, *pro se*, filed a Motion for Nominal Bail at docket number 3158-2022.
- 98. By letter dated June 1, 2023, Aubrea Hagerty-Haynes, Clerk of Records for Erie County sent to Respondent, as Mr. Alderson's counsel of record, a copy of the unsigned Motion for Nominal Bail received from Mr. Alderson at case number 3158-2022.

- 99. Thereafter, Respondent did not take any action on behalf of Mr. Alderson in regard to the Motion for Nominal Bail.
- 100. By email dated June 2, 2023, Mr. Fachetti informed Respondent that:
  - (a) He received a call yesterday from the Clerk's Office as they did not have an O/C attorney assigned for Mr. Alderson's case at 1859-2022;
  - (b) He knew Respondent was assigned to Mr. Alderson's other docket 3158-2022;
  - (c) Therefore, they were assigning docket 1859-2022 to Respondent; and
    - (d) Please see the attached order.
- 101. Thereafter, Respondent did not inform Mr. Alderson that he had been assigned to his case filed at docket number 1859-2022 or take any action on behalf of Mr. Alderson in his pending criminal matters.
- 102. By letter received and filed by the Clerk of Courts on July 17, 2023, and addressed to Respondent, Mr. Alderson informed Respondent, among other things, that:
  - (a) This was the sixth letter he had written to Respondent;
  - (b) Respondent had not responded to any of his inquiries;

- (c) Respondent and he hadn't even had a formal induction [sic];
  - (d) Respondent had not responded to his girl's voicemails;
  - (e) Respondent also had not responded to his mother's calls;
- (f) He asked Respondent to please file a motion to withdraw from his case;
- (g) He felt Respondent was not there to help him for the simple fact that he had not even met Respondent one time; and
- (h) Respondent had been on his case two months and Respondent had not answered any of his letters.
- 103. Respondent did not reply to Mr. Alderson's letter.
- 104. By letter filed with the Clerk of Courts on July 24, 2023, and addressed to Mr. Fachetti, Mr. Alderson stated, among other things, that:
  - (a) He was told if he was having a problem with his lawyer he was supposed to write to Mr. Fachetti;
  - (b) His problem was that Respondent was on his case for two months and he had not yet met Respondent; and
  - (c) He was filing *pro se* to remove Respondent from his case since Respondent was not helping him at all.

- 105. By letter dated July 24, 2023 and addressed to Judge Brabender, Mr. Alderson:
  - (a) Enclosed with his letter a Motion of Relief Due to Extraordinary Circumstance;
  - (b) Said he was filing the motion *pro se* on his behalf due to Respondent not meeting with him yet; and
  - (c) Informed the judge that this motion was to have Respondent withdraw from his case.
- 106. By letter to Respondent dated July 26, 2023, Ms. Hagerty-Haynes indicated that enclosed was a copy of a Motion of Relief Due to Extraordinary Circumstances received from Mr. Alderson for whom Respondent appeared as counsel of record and she asked that if Respondent no longer represented Mr. Alderson, for him to contact the Clerk of Courts.
- 107. Respondent did not take any action on behalf of Mr. Alderson in regard to the Motion of Relief Due to Extraordinary Circumstances.
- 108. By letter dated July 31, 2023, addressed to Judge Brabender and filed on August 2, 2023, Mr. Alderson enclosed two motions he filed on his behalf due to Respondent having abandoned him.

- 109. By letter dated August 4, 2023, Ms. Hagerty-Haynes informed Respondent, among other things, that:
  - (a) Enclosed were copies of two motion(s), one for Relief Due to Extraordinary Circumstance and the second for Nominal Bail received from Mr. Alderson at his docket numbers for whom Respondent appears as counsel of record; and
  - (b) If Respondent no longer represented Mr. Alderson, please contact the Clerk of Courts.
- 110. Respondent did not respond to the Clerk of Courts or Mr. Alderson in regard to the August 4, 2023 letter or take any action on behalf of Mr. Alderson.
- 111. By letter dated August 28, 2023, Ms. Hagerty-Haynes informed Respondent, among other things, that:
  - (a) Enclosed was a copy of a Motion to Compel Discovery received from Mr. Alderson for the cases listed for which Respondent appeared as counsel of record; and
  - (b) If Respondent no longer represented Mr. Alderson, please contact the Clerk of Courts.

- 112. On September 6, 2023, Mr. Alderson pled guilty to various charges filed at docket numbers CR-1859-2022 and CR-3158-2022. Respondent represented Mr. Alderson in the entry of his guilty pleas.
- 113. Respondent was sent a DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position dated September 20, 2023. On January 24, 2024, a reminder letter was sent to Respondent requesting a response to the DB7, a copy of which was enclosed.
- 114. Respondent admits to having received the DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position but did not provide a response to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

## THE WEBSTER MATTER

- 115. Prior to May of 2020, David E. Webster retained Bruce G. Sandmeyer, Esquire, to represent him in his divorce action.
- 116. On May 21, 2020, Attorney Sandmeyer filed a divorce action on behalf of Mr. Webster against Janine Webster in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County at docket number 2020-11021.
- 117. Sometime thereafter, Mr. Webster retained Respondent to represent him in his divorce action and paid Respondent a \$5,000.00 retainer for the representation.

- 118. At the time that Respondent assumed representation of Mr. Webster, no certificate or acceptance of service of the divorce complaint had been filed in his divorce case.
- 119. On or about March 19, 2021, Attorney Damon Hopkins, on behalf of Ms. Webster, served Respondent with Defendant's First Set of Interrogatories to Plaintiff and Request for Production of Documents.
- 120. Thereafter, Respondent did not provide an answer to Defendant's First Set of Interrogatories or a response to the Request for Production of Documents.
- 121. On October 25, 2021, Respondent filed a Motion to Establish Grounds for Divorce which was subsequently scheduled for a December 1, 2021 hearing.
- 122. At the time of the December 1, 2021 hearing, Respondent, on behalf of Mr. Webster:
  - (a) Had not answered the first set of interrogatories or the request for production of documents:
    - (b) Had not filed an inventory; and
  - (c) Had not perfected service of the divorce complaint, so Respondent's motion was moot.

- 123. Shortly thereafter, Respondent provided some answers to the interrogatories on behalf of Mr. Webster, but the answers were not complete.
- 124. At that time, Respondent did not file an inventory or file an affidavit of consent and waiver.
- 125. On March 23, 2022, Respondent filed another Motion to Establish Grounds for Divorce which was subsequently scheduled for hearing.
- 126. By Order dated May 9, 2022, Judge Elizabeth K. Kelly, after hearing, dismissed the motion without prejudice since Respondent still had not complied with filing the proper documents or providing complete answers to the interrogatories.
- 127. On September 7, 2022, Respondent filed Plaintiff's Inventory and Plaintiff's Affidavit Under Section 3301(d) of the Divorce Code, but Respondent failed to serve Attorney Hopkins with copies of the documents.
- 128. On September 7, 2022, Respondent also filed another Motion to Establish Grounds for Divorce which was subsequently set for a hearing on November 15, 2022.
- 129. By Order dated November 15, 2022, Judge Kelly denied Respondent's Motion to Establish Grounds for Divorce.

- 130. On February 3, 2023, Respondent refiled the Affidavit Under Section 3301(d) on behalf of Mr. Webster.
- 131. On March 30, 2023, Respondent filed another Motion to Establish Grounds for Divorce, which was subsequently scheduled for hearing on May 19, 2023. By Order dated May 18, 2023, the hearing scheduled for May 19, 2023 was continued until July 12, 2023.
- 132. On April 28, 2023, the Marital Property Settlement Agreement was filed in the Websters' divorce.
  - 133. On May 30, 2023, Ms. Webster filed an Affidavit of Consent.
- 134. On July 20, 2023, Respondent filed a Praecipe to Transmit Record and Divorce Information Sheet in the Websters' divorce case.
- 135. On or about July 31, 2023, the Deputy Court Administrator sent Respondent correspondence indicating that corrections had to be made to finalize the Websters' divorce.
- 136. Respondent did not file those corrections until September 6, 2023.
- 137. On September 6, 2023, Respondent filed the Affidavit of Consent for Mr. Webster, the Waiver of Intention to File the Praecipe to Transmit the Record, and the Praecipe to Transmit Record.

- 138. By Divorce Decree dated September 21, 2023, the Websters' divorce was finally granted.
- 139. As of November 8, 2023, Respondent had not provided Mr. Webster with a copy of his divorce decree.
- 140. Respondent was sent a DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position dated September 20, 2023. Reminder letters were sent to Respondent on January 24, 2024 and February 8, 2024 requesting a response to the DB7, a copy of which was enclosed.
- 141. Respondent admits to having received the DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position but did not provide a response to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

#### THE EDMUNDS MATTER

- 142. On September 30, 2022, Jennifer Edmunds met with Respondent and retained Respondent to file petitions for termination of parental rights in regard to her five children and to file name changes for three of her children.
- 143. At that time, Respondent informed Ms. Edmunds that he would need \$2,500 up front to start her matter and then Respondent would accept payments from her thereafter. On September 30, 2022, Ms. Edmunds paid Respondent \$2,500 in cash toward his retainer.

- 144. Respondent's fee agreement dated September 30, 2022 indicated, among other things, that Ms. Edmunds agreed to pay Respondent a non-refundable flat fee in the amount of \$5,000 for "termination of parental rights and name change".
- 145. At their initial meeting Ms. Edmunds provided Respondent with some of the documentation that Respondent needed to file the petitions for termination of parental rights. Respondent informed Ms. Edmunds at that meeting that he:
  - (a) Needed additional documentation before Respondent could prepare the petitions for termination of parental rights; and
  - (b) Would be able to file the petitions for termination of parental rights within a few weeks after receiving the necessary documentation from her.
- 146. Within two to three weeks of her initial meeting with Respondent, Ms. Edmunds provided Respondent with the documentation that he had requested.
- 147. Thereafter, Respondent did not file the petitions for termination of parental rights.
- 148. On November 1, 2022, Ms. Edmunds paid to Respondent \$300 toward Respondent's retainer.

- 149. Sometime in November of 2022, Ms. Edmunds called Respondent about the status of the petitions. At that time, Respondent informed Ms. Edmunds that Respondent was going to file the petitions in a couple of days.
- 150. On December 14, 2022, Ms. Edmunds paid Respondent \$200 toward his retainer. On January 24, 2023, Ms. Edmunds paid Respondent an additional \$200 toward his retainer. As of January 24, 2023, Ms. Edmunds had paid Respondent and/or his law firm \$3,200 toward Respondent's retainer.
- 151. Sometime in January of 2023, Respondent left the law firm of Sebald, Hackwelder & Knox.
- 152. On various occasions between January of 2023 and September of 2023, Ms. Edmunds called and left messages asking for Respondent to call her about the status of the petitions for termination of parental rights.
- 153. On the occasions that Ms. Edmunds was able to speak with Respondent during that time period, Respondent either informed Ms. Edmunds that he was going to file the petitions on her behalf or had already filed the petitions.
- 154. In September of 2023, Patrick Sullivan, Esquire, on behalf of Ms. Edmunds, called and spoke with Respondent about whether he had filed the

petitions. Respondent informed Attorney Sullivan that he would be filing the petitions shortly, or words to similar effect.

- 155. On October 13, 2023, Respondent filed five Petitions for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights to a Child Under the Age of 18 years on behalf of Ms. Edmunds in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania Orphans' Court Division, at docket numbers 85, 85A, 85B, 85C and 85D in Adoption 2023.
- 156. By Orders dated October 13, 2023, a hearing on the petitions was scheduled for December 14, 2023 in front of Judge Joseph M. Walsh, III. On October 20, 2023, Citations were issued to Joshua Lockett for the hearing scheduled for December 14, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. to terminate his parental rights as to Ms. Edmunds' minor children.
- 157. By Order of Court dated December 7, 2023, Judge Walsh cancelled the hearing scheduled for December 14, 2023 on the Petitions for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights for failure to substantially comply with the Rules of Orphans' Court Procedure, *inter alia*, Pa.R.O.C.P. 15.3, 15.4, 15.6, and 15.10.
- 158. The Order dated December 7, 2023 stated that: "Multiple efforts to contact counsel for Petitioners, Tyler Lindquist, Esq., regarding the deficiencies in his Petition went unanswered.

- 159. Copies of the December 7, 2023 Order of Court were put in Respondent's courthouse mailbox and sent to Respondent via mail at 2214 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3, Erie, PA 16505. The Order was also sent to Ms. Edmunds at her home address.
- 160. Respondent did not contact Ms. Edmunds about the entry of the Order of Court. dated December 7, 2023
- 161. Upon receipt of the Order of Court dated December 7, 2023, Ms. Edmunds called and left a message asking for Respondent to call her regarding the Order.
- 162. In response, Respondent subsequently spoke with Ms. Edmunds about the Order of Court dated December 7, 2023, and informed Ms. Edmunds that Respondent would correct the deficiencies in the Petitions.
- 163. By email dated December 18, 2023, Ms. Edmunds informed Respondent, among other things, that:
  - (a) This email was a follow-up to her phone conversation with Respondent last week;
  - (b) As Respondent knew, she originally hired Respondent to terminate the parental rights of her children's biological father

and also to have the last names of three of the children changed to Edmunds;

- (c) It had now been over a year since she hired Respondent and neither of the two things she hired Respondent for had been accomplished;
- (d) In fact, based on a letter from the Court, Respondent did not file the petition for termination of parental rights until October 13, 2023, which was one year after she hired Respondent;
- (e) Even after filing, the Judge cancelled the hearing because of something different from what Respondent had told her over the phone;
- (f) The letter from the Court made it clear that Respondent was the reason the hearing was cancelled for "failure to comply with Rules of Orphans' Court Procedure";
- (g) At this time, she had decided she would like to move forward with the last name changes for her three children, Joshua Lockett to Joshua Elijah Edmunds, Janayia Lockett to Janayia Edmunds and Jamarianna Lockett to Jamarianna Edmunds and forego the termination of parental rights, which Respondent had failed to do for a while;

- (h) It had been over a year since she hired Respondent;
- (i) Up to this date, she had paid Respondent \$3,200 and from what she could see, she received no legal services in exchange;
  - (j) She saw two courses of action at this point;
- (k) She would like Respondent to immediately move forward with the name changes with no further charge or cost to her:
- (I) In the alternative, she requested Respondent reimburse her the full amount of money she had paid Respondent to date, \$3,200, so she could hire another attorney; and
- (m) She requested a response to this letter by the end of the week so she knew how to proceed moving forward.
- 164. In response, by email dated December 22, 2023, Respondent informed Ms. Edmunds that he:
  - (a) Could "absolutely do the name change for her"; and
  - (b) Would be back in the office Wednesday afternoon, so Respondent would get working on it for her and let her know when everything was ready to be signed.
- 165. By email dated December 27, 2023, Ms. Edmunds forwarded to Respondent the names for the name changes that she wanted Respondent to handle.

- 166. Thereafter, Respondent did not file anything of record in regard to the name changes.
- 167. By email dated January 23, 2024, Ms. Edmunds informed Respondent, among other things, that:
  - (a) She was reaching out because the last time she spoke to Respondent, he was going to be filing for the name change and then email her all of the information;
  - (b) She had not received that yet so she was writing to see what the status was with everything if Respondent could update her on the things that would be nice;
  - (c) Her last email to Respondent showed him the three names that needed to be changed and what to, but she was not sure if Respondent had received it;
  - (d) She was hoping Respondent could get this done ASAP especially because Respondent was hired last year to do this; and
  - (e) She wanted to also make sure that Respondent served the father and put it in the paper so she was safe.
- 168. Respondent did not respond to Ms. Edmunds' email dated January 23, 2024.

- 169. By email dated February 7, 2024, Ms. Edmunds informed Respondent that:
  - (a) She was asking Respondent to please reimburse her the full amount of money she had paid him to date, \$3,200, so she could hire another attorney who was willing to proceed with what Respondent was originally hired to do; and
  - (b) She was asking Respondent to please respond to this letter by the end of the week so she knew how to proceed moving forward.
- 170. Respondent did not respond to Ms. Edmunds email dated February 7, 2024 nor refund to her any portion of the \$3,200 that she had paid to Respondent.
- 171. By email dated February 15, 2024, Ms. Edmunds informed Respondent, among other things, that:
  - (a) Here is another email attached to Respondent's email since he told her he was not receiving all of her emails;
  - (b) She would also print this out and have it delivered to Respondent's office;
  - (c) Every time she called the office and Respondent answered, she got the same response "you're working on paper

or you'll file and would update her on Monday" and nothing was getting done;

- (d) She would like to hire someone who was willing to do the job; and
- (e) Respondent had had well over a year and had not made any progress and was doing absolutely nothing.
- 172. By email dated March 5, 2024, Ms. Edmunds informed Respondent, among other things, that:
  - (a) Respondent was now ignoring her emails and her phone calls;
  - (b) She felt she gave Respondent a reasonable amount of time to represent her;
  - (c) She was now asking Respondent to please reimburse her the full amount of money she had paid Respondent to date, \$3,200; and
  - (d) Respondent was hired in September 2022 and he made no effort in her case.
- 173. On March 6, 2024, Ms. Edmunds filed a civil complaint against Respondent before Magisterial District Judge 06-2-02 in Erie County at

docket number MJ-06202-CV-0000063-2024 and a hearing was scheduled for April 3, 2024.

- 174. On April 1, 2024, Respondent filed an Intent to Defend in the civil action filed by Ms. Edmunds.
- 175. On April 1, 2024, Respondent called Ms. Edmunds and told her that he would give her a full refund of the \$3,200 if she agreed to postponing the civil action hearing for 90 days. Ms. Edmunds agreed to continue the civil action and the hearing was rescheduled for June 27, 2024.
- 176. Respondent subsequently did not pay Ms. Edmunds the \$3,200, or any portion thereof.
- 177. On June 27, 2024, Judgment for Ms. Edmunds in the amount of \$3,375.45 (reflecting the addition of filing fees/costs) was entered in the civil action and the judgment was certified to the Court of Common Pleas on July 30, 2024.
- 178. On April 5, 2024, Respondent was sent a DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position.
- 179. Respondent admits to having received the DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position but did not provide a response to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

### THE BUTCHER MATTER

- 180. On or about December 16, 2023, Ty Butcher contacted Respondent about representing him in child custody and support matters in Warren County, Pennsylvania.
- 181. Respondent informed Mr. Butcher that he would need a \$2,000 retainer to represent him in his custody and support matters, and another \$2,000 if the custody matter went to mediation. On December 16, 2023, Mr. Butcher paid to Respondent the \$2,000 retainer by debit card.
- 182. Respondent did not deposit the \$2,000 retainer that Mr. Butcher paid to him into an IOLTA or escrow account, or any other account for the deposit of entrusted funds.
- 183. Although Respondent had not regularly represented Mr. Butcher, Respondent did not communicate to him, in writing, the basis or rate of Respondent's fee, before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation.
- 184. On January 5, 2024, Respondent filed a Complaint for Custody on behalf of Mr. Butcher in the Court of Common Pleas of Warren County at docket number 2024-00012.
- 185. Thereafter, a custody conference was scheduled for February 8, 2024 and subsequently rescheduled for March 11, 2024.

- 186. On March 11, 2024, Respondent filed a Motion to Continue the custody conference because of a scheduling conflict that Respondent had and the custody conference was then continued until April 22, 2024.
- 187. Respondent did not inform Mr. Butcher of the April 22, 2024 custody conference.
- 188. On or about February 4, 2024, a support hearing was held in Mr. Butcher's support matter. Thereafter, the Judge issued an Order directing Mr. Butcher's employer to attach Mr. Butcher's income, and an Order setting forth how much support Mr. Butcher owed.
- 189. Mr. Butcher then asked Respondent to file a Motion to Modify the Support Order.
- 190. By email dated February 21, 2024, Mr. Butcher sent to Respondent a copy of a Notice of Right to Request a Hearing that he had received in his support matter. He asked Respondent if he was able to get that request filed before March 4.
- 191. Respondent filed a Motion to Modify Mr. Butcher's support order and a hearing was scheduled for April 4, 2024 in the support case.
- 192. Respondent did not inform Mr. Butcher of the April 4, 2024 support hearing.

- 193. In about the end of March of 2024, Mr. Butcher received a phone call from a clerk from the Warren County Domestic Relations Office about the support hearing that was scheduled for April 4, 2024 because they were unable to reach Respondent.
- 194. By email dated April 2, 2024, a clerk from the Warren/Forest Domestic Relations Office informed Mr. Butcher, among other things, that:
  - (a) They had also been unable to contact his attorney;
  - (b) Counsel for the opposing party filed a Motion to Continue the April 4 hearing today and they were just about to call Mr. Butcher to discuss that motion;
  - (c) The Motion to Continue had not been forwarded to the Domestic Relations Hearing Officer for a decision yet, but would be sent over to him shortly;
  - (d) The DRHO usually liked to know if the other party, Mr. Butcher in this case, was opposed to the matter being rescheduled;
  - (e) They were unable to provide notice of the hearing to his attorney as his mail was returned to their office, so it was likely that his attorney did not know that a hearing was scheduled for April 4; and

- (f) They asked him to let them know whether or not he was opposed to the April 4 hearing being rescheduled.
- 195. On various occasions in February and March of 2024, Mr. Butcher called and left messages for Respondent to call him about the status of his custody and support matters. Respondent did not respond to Mr. Butcher's inquiries.
- 196. By email dated April 5, 2024, Mr. Butcher requested a detailed account/billing statement from Respondent and a refund of what was left of his retainer, and informed Respondent that his services were no longer needed.
- 197. On April 12, 2024, Office of Disciplinary Counsel sent a DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position. On June 6, 2024, the DB7 was resent to Respondent by email.
- 198. Respondent admits to having received the DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position but did not provide a response to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

#### THE HAPPEL MATTER

199. On or about September 14, 2022, Anthony Happel was arrested for possession of a prohibited firearm and the manufacture, delivery, or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver a controlled substance.

- 200. On September 15, 2022, Mr. Happel retained Respondent to represent him in regard to his criminal charges. Respondent informed Mr. Happel of his retainer fee. On or about September 15, 2022, Mr. Happel paid Respondent's \$7,000.00 retainer.
- 201. On October 20, 2022, the criminal charges filed against Mr. Happel were docketed in the Court of Common Pleas of Venango County at docket number CP-61-CR-0000602-2022.
- 202. On June 12, 2023, Mr. Happel entered guilty pleas in regard to the criminal charges filed against him. On July 18, 2023, Mr. Happel was sentenced and incarcerated.
- 203. On various occasions between the end of August 2023 through March of 2024, Mr. Happel sent Respondent letters asking him about:
  - (a) When Respondent would be setting up a meeting with him;
  - (b) When Respondent would be filing different motions/petitions on his behalf;
  - (c) When Respondent would be providing him with various documents regarding his criminal matter;
    - (d) Various questions that he had regarding his appeal; and
  - (e) The status of the appeal that he requested Respondent to file on his behalf;

- 204. Respondent did not respond to any of Mr. Happel's letters to him.
- 205. On various occasions after August of 2023, Mr. Happel's father called and texted Respondent on behalf of Mr. Happel asking for Respondent to set up a conference call with Mr. Happel and requesting that Respondent send Mr. Happel his papers that he needed for his case.
- 206. Respondent did not respond to any of Mr. Happel's father's calls or texts.
- 207. On September 25, 2023, Respondent filed a Notice of Appeal on behalf of Mr. Happel with the Superior Court of Pennsylvania at docket number 1129 WDA 2023.
- 208. On October 23, 2023, the Prothonotary of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania issued an Order directing Respondent to comply with Pa.R.A.P. 3517 which was due on November 2, 2023.
  - 209. Thereafter, Respondent failed to comply with Pa.R.A.P. 3517.
- 210. On December 5, 2023, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania dismissed Mr. Happel's appeal for Respondent's failure to comply with Pa.R.A.P. 3517.
- 211. On December 5, 2023, Respondent filed an Application to Reinstate Appeal on behalf of Mr. Happel.

- 212. On December 7, 2023, the Superior Court issued an Order granting Respondent's Motion to Reconsider Dismissal and Reinstate Appeal on behalf of Mr. Happel and indicated that Mr. Happel's docketing statement was due within 14 days of the date of their Order. On December 7, 2023, a briefing schedule was issued which directed that Mr. Happel's brief was due on January 16, 2024.
- 213. On December 21, 2023, Respondent filed a Docketing Statement on behalf of Mr. Happel.
- 214. On February 7, 2024, Respondent filed a brief on behalf of Mr. Happel approximately three weeks after the due date set by the Superior Court.
- 215. Thereafter, the Commonwealth filed its brief in Mr. Happel's case.
- 216. On April 15, 2024, Mr. Happel's appeal was presented to a Superior Court Panel for review.
- 217. On June 7, 2024, the Superior Court issued a Memorandum Opinion dismissing the appeal because of Respondent's failure to respond to repeated requests that he pay the filing fee for the appeal.
- 218. Respondent did not notify Mr. Happel that his appeal had been dismissed.

- 219. On May 9, 2024, Respondent was sent by Office of Disciplinary counsel a DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position. On June 6, 2024, the DB7 was resent to Respondent by email.
- 220. Respondent admits to having received the DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position but did not provide a response to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.
- 221. Thereafter, Mr. Happel engaged Ryan H. James, Esquire to review his case and to provide an opinion relative to any post-conviction claims he might have.
- 222. On February 11, 2025, Attorney James was able to connect with Respondent via a group text thread.
- 223. Attorney James then called Respondent on February 11, 2025 and spoke with him about Mr. Happel's case. Attorney James inquired if Respondent had the client file and Respondent offered to mail it to him.
- 224. On March 3, 2025, Attorney James sent a follow-up text message to Respondent informing him that he had not received the file and inquiring if Respondent had sent it.
  - 225. Respondent did not respond to Attorney James' text message.
- 226. On March 13, 2025, Attorney James called Respondent and Respondent told him that he forgot to send the file but would do so that day.

- 227. On March 20, 2025, Attorney James sent a further text to Respondent indicating that he had not yet received the file and offered to pick the file up from Respondent if it had not yet been mailed.
- 228. On March 21, 2025, Respondent replied to Attorney James that the file was sent out that day and he should receive it by early the next week.
- 229. In response, Attorney James inquired as to how much the postage was and where he should send Respondent reimbursement. Respondent did not respond to this inquiry.
- 230. On March 25, 2025, Attorney James sent a follow-up text, again offering to reimburse Respondent for postage and inquiring about a tracking number because he still had not received the file in the mail.
  - 231. Respondent did not respond to Attorney James' text message.
- 232. On March 27, 2025, Attorney James called Respondent on his cell phone as further follow-up and left a voicemail indicating that he had not received the file and requesting a return call from Respondent.
  - 233. Respondent did not return Attorney James' telephone call.

## THE FELICIANO (HARRIS) MATTER

234. On January 2, 2024, criminal charges, including, inter alia, criminal attempt- criminal homicide, multiple counts of aggravated assault – attempts, possession of a weapon and counts of simple assault, were filed

against Georgio Juan Feliciano in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania at docket number CR-14-2024. On February 14, 2024, the criminal information was filed.

- 235. On February 27, 2024, a Right to Counsel request was filed by Mr. Feliciano in his criminal case. Shortly thereafter, Respondent was appointed as counsel for Mr. Feliciano.
- 236. Thereafter, Respondent did not contact Mr. Feliciano about his criminal case.
- 237. On April 19, 2024, Mr. Feliciano sent Respondent a letter dated April 18, 2024 through the Erie County Clerk of Court's office:
  - (a) Requesting that a copy of his discovery be sent to him;
  - (b) Requesting that transcripts from his preliminary hearing be provided to him;
  - (c) Requesting that Respondent contact two witnesses that he provided him with their phone numbers to contact regarding his case; and
  - (d) Informing Respondent that he was not interested in any plea offers, but he was interested in discussing any plea offers with Respondent if an offer was made.

- 238. Respondent did not respond to Mr. Feliciano's April 18, 2024 letter.
- 239. On or about May 9, 2024, Mr. Feliciano sent Respondent a letter dated May 5, 2024, through the Clerk of Court's office in which he:
  - (a) Informed Respondent that he had very important information and possibly new evidence that he would like to bring to Respondent's and the DA's attention that could prove his innocence;
    - (b) Asked that Respondent contact him as soon as possible;
  - (c) Informed Respondent that he would also like to know why his witnesses were not being checked into or contacted after he gave EPD the names, and Respondent the names and numbers for them in his last letter:
  - (d) Informed Respondent that he had been in the Erie County

    Prison going on eight months and he had yet to have the
    opportunity to speak with any attorney;
  - (e) Advised Respondent that he had not even gotten his discovery like he requested; and
  - (f) Requested that Respondent please send discovery and get in contact with him and his witnesses.

- 240. Thereafter, Respondent did not respond to Mr. Feliciano's May5, 2024 letter or provide him with the documents he had requested.
- 241. On or about May 24, 2024, Mr. Feliciano sent Respondent a letter through the Clerk of Court's office:
  - (a) Informing Respondent that he was appointed to represent him as "outside counsel";
  - (b) Telling Respondent that he became aware that Respondent also worked for the Public Defender's Office; and
  - (c) Requesting that Respondent file a motion to withdraw as counsel due to a conflict of interest, since Respondent works for the Public Defender's Office.
- 242. Respondent did not respond to Mr. Feliciano's May 24, 2024 letter.
- 243. Shortly thereafter, Attorney Bruce Sandmeyer entered his appearance on behalf of Mr. Feliciano in his criminal case.
- 244. During Respondent's representation of Mr. Feliciano, Respondent did not:
  - (a) Meet with him even though he was incarcerated in the Erie County Prison throughout the time Respondent represented him;
    - (b) Have any communication, of any sort, with him;

- (c) Provide him with the discovery documents that he had requested; and
  - (d) Take any action on behalf of Mr. Feliciano.
- 245. On September 27, 2024, Respondent was sent a DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position.
- 246. Respondent admits to having received the DB7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position but did not provide a response to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

#### SPECIFIC RULE VIOLATIONS

- 247. By his conduct, as set forth in paragraphs 6 through 246, Respondent admits that he violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement:
  - (a) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.1 A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.
  - (b) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

- (c) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(2) A lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished.
- (d) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(3) A lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter.
- (e) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(4) A lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
- (f) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5(a) A lawyer shall not enter into an agreement for, charge, or collect an illegal or clearly excessive fee. The factors to be considered in determining the propriety of a fee include the following:
  - (1) whether the fee is fixed or contingent;
  - (2) the time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly;
  - (3) the likelihood, if apparent to the client, that the acceptance of the particular employment will preclude other employment by the lawyer;

- (4) the fee customarily charged in the locality for similar legal services;
- (5) the amount involved and the results obtained;
- (6) the time limitations imposed by the client or by the circumstances;
- (7) the nature and length of the professional relationship with the client; and
- (8) the experience, reputation, and ability of the lawyer or lawyers performing the services.
- (g) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5(b) When the lawyer has not regularly represented the client, the basis or rate of the fee shall be communicated to the client, in writing, before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation.
- (h) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15(b) A lawyer shall hold all Rule 1.15 Funds and property separate from the lawyer's own property. Such property shall be identified and appropriately safeguarded.
- (i) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15(e) Except as stated in this Rule or otherwise permitted by law or by agreement with the

client or third person, a lawyer shall promptly deliver to the client or third person any property, including but not limited to Rule 1.15 Funds, that the client or third person is entitled to receive and, upon request by the client or third person, shall promptly render a full accounting regarding the property; Provided, however, that the delivery, accounting, and disclosure of Fiduciary Funds or property shall continue to be governed by the law, procedure and rules governing the requirements of Fiduciary administration, confidentiality, notice and accounting applicable to the Fiduciary entrustment.

(j) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.16(d) — Upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled and refunding any advance payment of fee or expense that has not been earned or incurred. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by other law.

- (k) Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(c) It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.
- (I) Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement 203(b)(7) The following shall also be grounds for discipline: Failure by a respondent-attorney without good cause to respond to Disciplinary Counsel's request or supplemental request under Disciplinary Board Rules, § 87.7(b) for a statement of the respondent-attorney's position.

## SPECIFIC JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

- 248. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent's admitted misconduct is a suspension of one year and one day, stayed in its entirety, with two years of probation with conditions, including a practice monitor.
- 249. Respondent hereby consents to the discipline being imposed upon him. Attached to this Petition is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E., stating that he consents to the recommended discipline and including the mandatory acknowledgements contained in Rule 215(d)(i)-(iv), Pa.R.D.E.

- 250. In support of ODC and Respondent's joint recommendation, the following aggravating circumstances are present:
  - (a) Respondent has prior discipline of record. In 2023, Respondent received an Informal Admonition for his lack of diligence and lack of communication in three matters a divorce case in McKean County, a criminal defense case in Erie County, and a custody case in Erie County; and
  - (b) Respondent failed to answer the Petition for Discipline filed herein.
- 251. In support of ODC and Respondent's joint recommendation, the following mitigating circumstances are present:
  - (a) Respondent has admitted his misconduct, has accepted responsibility for his misconduct and has recently cooperated with ODC in the resolution of this matter as reflected in the discipline on consent proposed herein; and
  - (b) Respondent was diagnosed by a psychiatrist in 2021 with depression and anxiety and has provided ODC with supporting documentation. Respondent's misconduct primarily occurred during a period of time when he was unable to afford medical

insurance and was not taking needed medication for anxiety and depression. Respondent, in his current employment as a full-time assistant public defender, has medical insurance coverage and is taking needed medication. He has provided ODC with documentation from his Primary Care Physician confirming his current medications and has expressed his intention to continue taking medications prescribed to maintain his mental health.

- 252. In addition to the aggravating and mitigating factors cited herein, Respondent represents that if this matter were to proceed to a hearing Respondent would offer the following information regarding his misconduct:
  - (a) The majority of Respondent's misconduct occurred while he was engaged in the private practice of law or while he still maintained a solo private practice. At the time of the filing of this petition, Respondent is winding down his private cases and is no longer continuing a private practice of law.
  - (b) Respondent is currently employed as a full-time assistant public defender in Erie County, under the direct supervision of his supervisor, Nicole Sloan Kondrlik, Esquire, who has agreed to serve as Respondent's practice monitor during the term of his probation; and

- (c) During the term of Respondent's probation, he will not accept or represent private clients but will focus solely on his duties as an assistant public defender.
- 253. Since the filing of the Petition for Discipline, ODC has received six complaints against Respondent. Respondent has promptly cooperated with ODC in the investigation and resolution of these complaints.
- 254. Although there is no *per se* rule for discipline for attorneys involving multiple instances of lack of diligence and lack of communication in the representation of clients, a suspension of one year and one day, stayed in its entirety, with two years of probation with conditions, is within the range of discipline imposed:

In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Evan T. L. Hughes*, No. 40 DB 2022 (S.Ct. Order 02/08/2023)(on consent), Mr. Hughes was suspended on consent for one year and one day for his lack of diligence and lack of communication, along with other rule violations, in two client matters. The suspension was stayed in its entirety and Mr. Hughes was placed on probation for a period of two years. Mr. Hughes had prior public discipline, having received a public reprimand in 2018 for misconduct in two client matters.

In Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Michael P. Quinn, No. 156 DB 2017 (S.Ct. Order 05/30/2018)(on consent), Mr. Quinn was suspended on consent for one year and one day, stayed in its entirety, with two years of probation with a practice monitor for neglect, failure to communicate and failure to take action on client matters and failure to provide written fee agreements. Mr. Quinn had previously received an informal admonition in September 2015 and a private reprimand in August 2015 for similar misconduct.

In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. John E. Gomolchak*, No. 2 DB 2015 (S.Ct. Order 08/21/2015)(on consent), Mr. Gomolchak was suspended on consent for one year and one day, stayed in its entirety, with one year of probation with a practice monitor for neglect, failure to communicate and failure to timely distribute estate funds. Mr. Gomolchak had received a public reprimand in 2013 for similar misconduct.

In Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Kevin Mark Kallenbach, Nos. 21 DB 2013 and 150 DB 2013 (S.Ct. Order 05/11/2015), Mr. Kallenbach was suspended for one year and one day, stayed in its entirety, with two years of probation with a practice monitor for neglect, failure to communicate, and failure to respond to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel's request to provide an explanation for his behavior. Mr. Kallenbach had a prior history of

discipline having received a private reprimand in 2006 and a public reprimand with one year of probation and a practice monitor in 2013.

Hughes, Quinn, Gomolchak, and Kallenbach are all cases involving discipline on consent and provide support for a suspension of one year and one day, stayed in its entirety, with Respondent being placed on two years of probation with conditions, including a practice monitor.

255. Respondent understands and agrees that his conduct during the probationary period must conform with the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner and Respondent respectfully request that pursuant to Rule 215(e) and 215(g), Pa. R.D.E., the Three-member Panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve this Joint Petition In Support of Discipline on Consent and file a recommendation with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in which it is recommended that the Supreme Court enter an Order that Respondent be suspended for one year and one day, stayed in its entirety, with probation for two years subject to the following conditions:

(a) Nicole Sloane Kondrlik, Esquire will be appointed as a practice monitor to monitor Respondent in his practice of law, specifically through his employment as an assistant public defender in Erie County, Pennsylvania;

- (b)Attorney Sloane Kondrlik will do the following during Respondent's probation:
  - i. meet with Respondent on a biweekly basis (every other week);
  - ii. obtain the status of each of Respondent's cases as well as discuss, examine and review each case with Respondent, which will include, inter alia, all pending deadlines and court appearances, all discovery requests, and all client communications to ensure that Respondent responds timely to his clients' reasonable requests;
  - iii. discuss with Respondent any attorney/client concerns, outstanding requests from clients, and scheduling of client meetings/visitations if required;
  - iv. ensure that Respondent has worked on cases in a reasonably prompt and diligent manner; and
  - v. file quarterly written reports with the Disciplinary
    Board and Office of Disciplinary Counsel in which
    Attorney Sloane Kondrlik will note the following:

- a. whether she met with Respondent bi-weekly
   as required;
- b. whether Respondent has abided by the Rules of Professional Conduct; and
- c. whether Attorney Sloane Kondrlik has any concerns about Respondent's practice of law.
- (c)Respondent shall participate and comply with any ongoing mental health treatment, including prescribed medication, as recommended by Respondent's health care provider(s). Respondent agrees, upon request, to provide ODC with verification of his compliance with the recommendation(s) of his health care provider(s).
- (d)Respondent shall file quarterly written reports with the Disciplinary Board and Office of Disciplinary Counsel certifying that he is in compliance with his health care provider's recommended prescription regime.
- (e)Any violation of the terms of Respondent's probation will result in Office of Disciplinary Counsel seeking a Court order imposing suspension of one year and one day; and

(f) Respondent shall pay the necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter, and that under Pa. R.D.E. 208(g)(1) all expenses are to be paid by Respondent within 30 days after the notice of the taxed expenses is sent to Respondent.

Respectfully and jointly submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

THOMAS J. FARRELL
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Susan N. Dobbins

**Disciplinary Counsel** 

Tyler Alan Lindquist, Esquire

Respondent

# BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL .:

Petitioner

No. 57 DB 2025

٧.

TYLER ALAN LINDQUIST,

: Attorney Registration No. 323677

Respondent

: (Erie County)

## **VERIFICATION**

The statements contained in the foregoing Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Under Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E. 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.

///05/2025 Date

Susan N. Dobbins Disciplinary Counsel

10/30/25

Data

Tyler Alan Lindquist

Respondent

# BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,:

Petitioner

No. 57 DB 2025

V.

TYLER ALAN LINDQUIST.

: Attorney Registration No. 323677

Respondent

: (Erie County)

## AFFIDAVIT UNDER RULE 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

Respondent, Tyler Alan Lindquist, hereby states that he consents to suspension of one year and one day, stayed in its entirety, subject to probation of two years with conditions, as jointly recommended by Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, in the Joint Petition in Support Of Discipline On Consent, and further states that:

- 1. He is an attorney admitted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having been admitted to the bar on April 13, 2017.
- 2. He desires to submit a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

- 3. His consent is freely and voluntarily rendered; he is not being subjected to coercion or duress; and he is fully aware of the implications of submitting this affidavit.
- 4. He is aware that there is a pending proceeding involving allegations that he has been guilty of misconduct, as set forth in the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E., to which this affidavit is attached.
- 5. He acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true.
- 6. He consents because he knows that if the matter pending against him is prosecuted, he could not successfully defend against the charges.
- 7. He acknowledges that he is fully aware of his right to consult and employ counsel to represent him in the instant proceeding. He has not retained, consulted or acted upon the advice of counsel in connection with 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.A. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Tyler Alan Lindquist

Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed

before me this 31st day of October, 2025.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal Michael Anthony Dejohn, Notary Public Erie County My commission expires November 19, 2027 Commission number 1265493

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

| OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY C | OUNSEL, |
|--------------------------|---------|
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Petitioner

No. 57 DB 2025

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TYLER ALAN LINDQUIST,

: Attorney Registration No. 323677

Respondent

: (Erie County)

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I am this day serving the foregoing documents upon all parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 204 Pa.C.S. §89.22 (relating to service by a participant). By First-Class Mail and Email as follows:

Tyler Alan Lindquist, Esquire 807 E. Grandview Blvd., Apt 202 Erie, PA 16504

Email: tlindquist@eriecountypa.gov

Dated: <u>11/5/2025</u>

Susan N. Dobbins, Reg. No. 52108

Susan M. Doddeas

Disciplinary Counsel

Office of Disciplinary Counsel

District IV Office

Suite 1300, Frick Building

437 Grant Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

(412) 565-3173

#### **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: Susan N. Dobbins
Signature: June M. Dalkur

Name: Susan N. Dobbins

Attorney No. (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_