

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUPREME COURT

ORDER

LD-2005-0003, In the Matter of Donald F. King

On April 1, 2005, the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) filed a petition for a one-year suspension of the respondent, Donald F. King. The petition was sent to Attorney King by certified mail and he was ordered to file an answer to the petition within 30 days of service. On April 21, 2005, Attorney King filed an assented-to motion to adopt the sanction recommended by the PCC and agreed to the one-year suspension requested by the PCC.

The PCC petition alleged that Attorney King violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- (1) Rule 1.3, which requires a lawyer to act with reasonable promptness and diligence in representing a client, by failing to file appropriate paperwork in probate court related to an estate and by failing to effectuate the transfer of property from the decedent's estate to the client, who was the surviving spouse and sole beneficiary of the estate;
- (2) Rule 1.4, which requires a lawyer to keep a client reasonably informed regarding the status of a matter, by failing to explain to the client the status of the transfer of property from the decedent's estate;
- (3) Rule 1.16(d), which requires a lawyer, upon the termination of representation, to surrender papers and property to which the client is entitled, by failing to return certain client documents for more than three months after receiving a request from the client, and failing to return other documents entirely;
- (4) Rule 8.4(a), which makes it professional misconduct to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct.

In his motion to adopt the sanctions recommended by the Professional Conduct Committee, Attorney King states that he does not contest the factual allegations made in the petition.

Having reviewed the petition and Attorney King's motion, the court concludes that further proceedings are unnecessary to resolve this matter. It concludes that the violations found by the committee justify a one-year suspension.

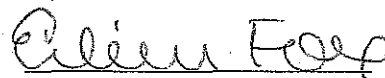
THEREFORE, Donald F. King is hereby suspended from the practice of law in New Hampshire for a period of one year. Any motion for reinstatement will be governed by Rule 37(14). Attorney King is ordered to notify the attorney discipline authority of any other jurisdictions in which he is licensed to practice law of the issuance of the court's order.

Donald F. King is hereby assessed all expenses incurred by the Professional Conduct Committee in the investigation and prosecution of this matter.

Broderick, C.J., and Nadeau, Dalianis, Duggan and Galway, JJ., concurred.

DATE: May 6, 2005

ATTEST:



Eileen Fox, Clerk

Distribution:

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