



any written discovery requests. In the 19 months that followed the removal of the case, you did nothing but collect medical records.

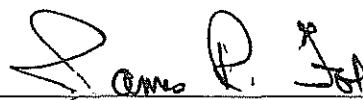
On February 1, 2006, Federal Court judge Robert Conrad entered an order dismissing J. M.'s case for failure to prosecute. In that order, Judge Conrad indicated that "[t]he damage is done and cannot be undone. Plaintiff has failed to prosecute his claims. A twenty-eight (28) month failure to prosecute is inexcusable and dismissal is the appropriate remedy." As a result of Judge Conrad's order, J. M.'s case was dismissed.

At a meeting with a member of a local grievance committee, you conceded that you were taken aback when the lawsuit was transferred to Federal Court. You admitted that mistakes were made in handling the case. You expressed some discomfort in practicing in Federal Court, and admitted that you should have contacted the clerk of court to determine the status of the case. The Grievance Committee found that your handling of J. M.'s legal matter violated Rule 1.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Furthermore, you failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing J. M. in violation of Rule 1.3. Your conduct in this case was prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 8.4(d).

You are hereby censured by the North Carolina State Bar for your violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The Grievance Committee trusts that you will ponder this censure, recognize the error that you have made, and that you will never again allow yourself to depart from adherence to the high ethical standards of the legal profession. This censure should serve as a strong reminder and inducement for you to weigh carefully in the future your responsibility to the public, your clients, your fellow attorneys and the courts, to the end that you demean yourself as a respected member of the legal profession whose conduct may be relied upon without question.

In accordance with the policy adopted January 24, 2008 by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar regarding the taxing of the administrative and investigative costs to any attorney issued a censure by the Grievance Committee, the costs of this action in the amount of \$100.00 are hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

  
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James R. Fox, Chair  
Grievance Committee  
The North Carolina State Bar