



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
17 DHC 3DR

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR,

Plaintiff

v.

STEPHANIE L. VILLAVER, Attorney,

Defendant

CONSENT ORDER
REINSTATING DEFENDANT FROM
DISABILITY INACTIVE STATUS

THIS MATTER was considered by a Hearing Panel of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission composed of Joshua W. Willey, Jr., Chair, and members Katherine H. King and Kimberly W. Strach. Jennifer A. Porter represented Plaintiff, the North Carolina State Bar. Defendant, Stephanie L. Villaver (“Villaver”), appeared *pro se*.

The parties stipulate and agree to the findings of fact and conclusions of law recited in this Consent Order. The parties consent to Villaver being reinstated from disability inactive status to active status.

Based upon the stipulated facts and upon the consent of the parties, the Hearing Panel hereby finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On August 10, 2023, the DHC entered a Consent Order Transferring Villaver to Disability Inactive Status.
2. At that time, Villaver was disabled by the treatment she was undergoing for cancer and the side effects of that treatment.
3. On January 14, 2025, Villaver filed a Petition to Transfer to Active Status.
4. Villaver’s cancer is in remission and she is no longer undergoing any treatment or taking any medication that impairs her professional judgment, performance, or competence as an attorney.
5. Villaver is no longer disabled within the meaning of 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0103(19).

6. The State Bar consents to Villaver being reinstated from disability inactive status to active status, subject to the terms of the stayed suspension that was in effect at the time she was transferred to disability inactive status and that was tolled while she was in disability inactive status.

7. At the time Villaver was transferred to disability inactive status, there was one year and 3 days remaining of the term of her stayed suspension, pursuant to the extension entered by DHC order on February 15, 2023.

8. Upon Villaver's reinstatement to active status, the tolling of the stayed suspension will cease and the remaining one year and 3 days remaining of her stayed suspension will resume from that date, subject to all requirements and conditions contained in the orders entered in the underlying case, 17 DHC 3.

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and upon the consent of the parties, the Hearing Panel enters the following

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. All the parties are properly before the Hearing Panel and the Panel has jurisdiction over Defendant, Stephanie L. Villaver, and the subject matter.

2. Villaver is no longer disabled as defined in 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0103(19).

3. It is appropriate to reinstate Villaver from disability inactive status pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0129(c).

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and with the consent of the parties, the Hearing Panel hereby enters the following

ORDER

1. Stephanie L. Villaver is reinstated from disability inactive status to active status, subject to the terms of the stayed suspension in 17 DHC 3 and the conditions in this order.


2. Upon the filing of this reinstatement order reinstating Villaver to active status, the tolling of the stayed suspension entered in 17 DHC 3 shall cease and the remaining one year and 3 days remaining of her stayed suspension shall resume from that date, subject to all requirements and conditions contained in the orders entered in the underlying case, 17 DHC 3.

3. Upon the filing of this reinstatement order, any grievances that were abated while Villaver was in disability inactive status shall be returned to pending status and investigation in such grievances will resume.

4. The costs of this reinstatement proceeding, if any, are taxed to Villaver.

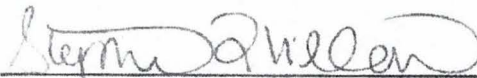
5. A trustee was appointed to protect the interests of Villaver's clients when she was transferred to disability inactive status. Pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B 0129(c)(8), Villaver's reinstatement is conditioned upon Villaver reimbursing the State Bar for any sums expended by the State Bar to compensate the trustee and/or to reimburse the trustee for any expenses of trusteeship. Villaver shall pay such reimbursement to the State Bar within 30 days of receipt of any statement from the State Bar identifying payments made by the State Bar to the trustee for reimbursement by Villaver.

Signed by the Chair with the consent of the other Hearing Panel members, this the 21st day of February, 2025.



Joshua W. Willey, Jr., Chair
Disciplinary Hearing Panel

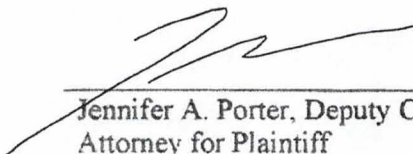
WE CONSENT:



Stephanie L. Villaver
Defendant

02/19/2025

Date



Jennifer A. Porter, Deputy Counsel
Attorney for Plaintiff

February 19, 2025

Date