

NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE  
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
14G0857

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IN THE MATTER OF )

Antwoine L. Edwards, )  
Attorney At Law )

REPRIMAND )

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On April 16, 2015 the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar met and considered the grievance filed against you by T. M. The grievance was assigned to a Subcommittee, which thoroughly reviewed the results of the State Bar staff’s investigation of this matter.

Pursuant to Section .0113(a) of the Discipline and Disability Rules of the North Carolina State Bar, the Grievance Subcommittee conducted a preliminary hearing. After considering the information available to it, including your response to the letter of notice, the Grievance Subcommittee found probable cause. Probable cause is defined in the rules as “reasonable cause to believe that a member of the North Carolina State Bar is guilty of misconduct justifying disciplinary action.”

The rules provide that after a finding of probable cause, the Grievance Committee may determine that the filing of a complaint and a hearing before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission are not required, and the Grievance Committee may issue various levels of discipline depending upon the misconduct, the actual or potential injury caused, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. The Grievance Committee may issue an admonition, a reprimand, or a censure to the respondent attorney.

A reprimand is a written form of discipline more serious than an admonition issued in cases in which an attorney has violated one or more provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct and has caused harm or potential harm to a client, the administration of justice, the profession, or a member of the public, but the misconduct does not require a censure.

The Grievance Committee was of the opinion that a censure is not required in this case and issues this reprimand to you. As chairman of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar, it is now my duty to issue this reprimand.

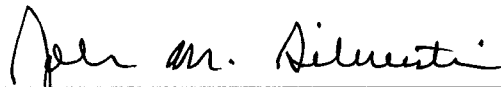
Indigent Defense Services (IDS) allows experts who provide court-approved services in indigent cases to receive payments electronically if they have submitted a Payment Method Verification Form (PMVF). While you were representing an indigent parent in a DSS case, you

discussed with a licensed counselor the possibility of her providing services in connection with the case. You subsequently submitted to IDS a PMVF which you had falsified to make it appear as if it had been prepared and submitted by the counselor. Your falsification of the PMVF was conduct involving dishonesty, deceit, or misrepresentation in violation of Rule 8.4(c). In your initial response to this grievance, you insisted that someone else had completed and submitted the PMVF without your knowledge. You later admitted that the statements about the PMVF in your initial response were false. By submitting your initial response to the grievance, you knowingly made false statements of material fact in connection with a disciplinary matter in violation of Rule 8.1(a). In determining that a reprimand was appropriate in this case, the Committee took into consideration that you did not attempt to obtain any payment from IDS, and that your conduct did not cause actual harm.

You are hereby reprimanded by the North Carolina State Bar for your professional misconduct. The Grievance Committee trusts that you will heed this reprimand, that it will be remembered by you, that it will be beneficial to you, and that you will never again allow yourself to depart from adherence to the high ethical standards of the legal profession.

In accordance with the policy adopted July 23, 2010 by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar regarding the taxing of administrative fees and investigative costs to any attorney issued a reprimand by the Grievance Committee, an administrative fee in the amount of \$350.00 is hereby taxed to you.

Done and ordered, this the 4th day of MAY, 2015.



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John M. Silverstein, Chair  
Grievance Committee

JMS/lb