

NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE  
THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
24G0339

IN THE MATTER OF

GUY E. COUSINS,

ATTORNEY AT LAW

REPRIMAND

Pursuant to the procedures set forth in 27 N.C. Admin. Code, Chapter 1B, the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar considered the grievance filed against you by C.R.

After thoroughly considering the information available to it, including your response to the letter of notice, the Grievance Committee found probable cause, defined as “reasonable cause to believe that a member of the North Carolina State Bar is guilty of misconduct justifying disciplinary action.”

Having found probable cause exists in your matter, the Grievance Committee next considered what level of discipline is most appropriate based on all the facts, the nature of the misconduct, the actual or potential injury caused, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. After further discussion and deliberations, the Grievance Committee determined the conduct before it merited discipline at the level of reprimand.

A reprimand is a written form of discipline issued where an attorney is determined to have 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 protection of the public does not require a censure.

As Chair of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar, it is my duty to issue this reprimand, which is based on the following conduct:

You were retained to represent C.R. in a civil action. Opposing counsel sent you a notice of deposition to depose your client; however, you did not inform your client about the notice or inform opposing counsel that you were not available on the noticed date. Instead, you traveled out of state for personal business without informing your client or opposing counsel. After neither you nor your client attended the noticed deposition, opposing counsel noticed the deposition for another date and contacted you to confirm your availability, but you did not respond. Your client also attempted to contact you to request updates about their case, but you did not respond. After you and your client failed to appear for either noticed deposition, the court dismissed your client’s case. You did not take any further action on behalf of your client to seek relief from the dismissal order. Thus, you failed to represent your client with reasonable diligence and promptness in violation of Rule 1.3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. By not responding to your client’s reasonable requests for information about their case, you violated Rule 1.4(a)(4) of the Rules of

Professional Conduct. You also violated Rule 1.4(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct by failing to inform your client about the two deposition notices served on you by opposing counsel.

After the State Bar served you with the Letter of Notice of this grievance, you did not timely submit your response to the State Bar, nor did you fully respond to the allegations of misconduct described therein. The State Bar sent multiple letters asking you to provide additional information to supplement your response, but you did not respond or provide the requested information. By not timely and fully responding to the State Bar's Letter of Notice, and by not responding to the State Bar's requests for supplemental information, you violated Rule 8.1(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Accordingly, you are hereby reprimanded by the North Carolina State Bar for your professional misconduct consisting of the cited violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct. 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.

If you accept this reprimand, it will be maintained as a record in the judgment book of the North Carolina State Bar and a copy will be sent to the complainant. Please review carefully the details set forth in the formal Notice of Reprimand attached.

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 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.



Charles Gordon Brown, Chair  
Grievance Committee

CGB/jms