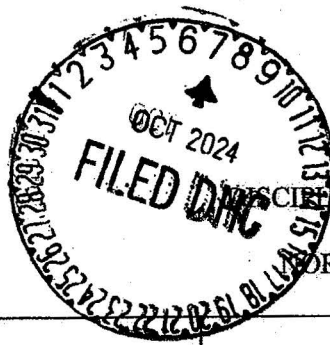


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE  
 DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION  
 OF THE  
 NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
 24 DHC 17N

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR,

Petitioner

v.

STEVEN B. WRIGHT, Attorney,

Respondent

ORDER SUSPENDING  
 RESPONDENT'S LAW LICENSE  
 FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

THIS MATTER was considered by the Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar, was represented by Jessica M. Arnold. Respondent, Steven B. Wright, was not represented, did not make an appearance in this matter, and did not file any response to the Order to Show Cause for Grievance Noncompliance served upon him. Based on the filings, the Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar ("State Bar"), is a state agency duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted it in Chapter 84 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar (Chapter 1 of Title 27 of the North Carolina Administrative Code).

2. Respondent, Steven B. Wright ("Respondent"), was licensed to practice law in North Carolina in 2013 and is, and was at all times referred to herein, an attorney at law licensed to practice in North Carolina, subject to the laws of the State of North Carolina, the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar and the Rules of Professional Conduct.

3. The State Bar's membership database shows the following address for Respondent: 404 North Third Street, Suite 111, Wilmington, NC 28401.

4. On 13 July 2023, Petitioner served Respondent via certified mail with a Letter of Notice in grievance file no. 23G0609.

5. Respondent's response to the Letter of Notice in 23G0609 was due within 15 days of Respondent's receipt of the Letter of Notice.

6. Respondent did not respond to the Letter of Notice in 23G0609 within 15 days of Respondent's receipt of the Letter of Notice.

7. Respondent did not request an extension of time to respond to the Letter of Notice in 23G0609.

8. On 6 September 2023, Petitioner sent Respondent a letter informing Respondent his response to the Letter of Notice in 23G0609 was late and asking him to submit a Response by 15 September 2023.

9. Petitioner did not receive any mailings from Respondent after 6 September 2023 containing responses to the Letter of Notice in 23G0609.

10. Petitioner did not receive any emails from Respondent after 6 September 2023 containing responses to the Letter of Notice in 23G0609.

11. On 11 September 2023, Petitioner served Respondent via certified mail with a Letter of Notice in grievance file no. 23G1005.

12. Respondent's response to the Letter of Notice in 23G1005 was due within 15 days of Respondent's receipt of the Letter of Notice.

13. Respondent did not respond to the Letter of Notice in 23G1005 within 15 days of Respondent's receipt of the Letter of Notice.

14. Respondent did not request an extension of time to respond to the Letter of Notice in 23G1005.

15. On 11 October 2023, Petitioner sent Respondent another letter informing Respondent his response to the Letter of Notice in 23G1005 was late and asking him to submit a Response by 18 October 2023.

16. Petitioner did not receive any mailings from Respondent after 11 October 2023 containing responses to the Letter of Notice in 23G1005.

17. Petitioner did not receive any emails from Respondent after 11 October 2023 containing responses to the Letter of Notice in 23G1005.

18. On 6 April 2024, Petitioner served Respondent via sheriff with Letters of Notice in grievance file nos. 23G1291 and 24G0194.

19. Respondent's response to the Letters of Notice in 23G1291 and 24G0194 were due within 15 days of Respondent's receipt of the Letters of Notice.

20. Respondent did not respond to the Letters of Notice in 23G1219 and 24G0194 within 15 days of Respondent's receipt of the Letters of Notice.

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21. Respondent did not request an extension of time to respond to the Letters of Notice in 23G1219 and 24G0194.

22. On 10 April 2024 Petitioner spoke to Respondent on the phone regarding his failure to respond to the Letters of Notice in 23G0609, 23G1005, 23G1291 and 24G0194.

23. On 16 April 2024, Petitioner emailed Respondent following up on the 10 April 2024 phone call regarding Respondent's lack of a response to the Letters of Notice in 23G0609, 23G1005, 23G1291 and 24G0194.

24. Petitioner did not receive any mailings from Respondent after 16 April 2024 containing responses to the Letters of Notice in 23G0609, 23G1005, 23G1291 and 24G0194.

25. Petitioner did not receive any emails from Respondent after 16 April 2024 containing responses to the Letters of Notice in 23G0609, 23G1005, 23G1291 and 24G0194.

26. On 15 August 2024, Petitioner served Respondent via sheriff with a Letter of Notice in grievance file no. 24G0469.

27. Respondent's response to the Letter of Notice in 24G0469 was due within 15 days of Respondent's receipt of the Letter of Notice.

28. Respondent did not respond to the Letter of Notice in 24G0469 within 15 days of Respondent's receipt of the Letter of Notice.

29. Respondent did not request an extension of time to respond to the Letter of Notice in 24G0469.

30. Respondent has not responded to Petitioner's Letters of Notice with which he has been served, in grievance file nos. 23G0609, 23G1005, 23G1291, 24G0194 and 24G0469.

31. On 10 September 2024, after Respondent failed to respond to the Letters of Notice in grievance file nos. 23G0609, 23G1005, 23G1291, 24G0194 and 24G0469, Petitioner filed an amended petition with the Disciplinary Hearing Commission ("DHC") setting forth the efforts made by the State Bar seeking Respondent's compliance and seeking entry of an order directing Respondent to show cause why his law license should not be suspended for noncompliance pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135.

15. The petition was supported by the affidavit of State Bar paralegal Brittany Wilson.

16. On 11 September 2024 the DHC entered an Order ("Order") directing Respondent to show cause within 14 days of the date of service of the Order upon Respondent why his law license should not be suspended for noncompliance.

17. Respondent was properly served with the Order, pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135(d)(4), on 11 September 2024.

18. The Order warned Respondent that failure to respond to the Order may result in the suspension of his law license.

19. Respondent did not respond to the Order.

20. Respondent has not shown he is in compliance, has not cured his noncompliance with the State Bar, and has not shown good cause for his noncompliance.

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Chair makes the following

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. All parties are properly before the Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission, and the Disciplinary Hearing Commission has jurisdiction over Respondent, Steven B. Wright, and over the subject matter of this proceeding.

2. Pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135(e)(3), if the respondent does not file a response to the order to show cause within 14 days of the date of the service of the order to show cause upon the respondent, the Chair of the DHC may enter an order suspending the respondent's law license.

3. The State Bar met its burden of proof by establishing by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that Respondent is noncompliant in grievance file nos. 23G0609, 23G1005, 23G1291, 24G0194 and 24G0469.

4. Respondent failed to meet his burden of proof to establish that he was and is in compliance, that he fully cured all noncompliance, or that there is good cause for his noncompliance. None of these three circumstances have been established in this case.

5. Respondent is noncompliant in grievance file nos. 23G0609, 23G1005, 23G1291, 24G0194 and 24G0469 as defined in 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135(a).

6. Respondent's noncompliance is grounds for the suspension of his law license pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135(e)(3) and (g).

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law, the Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission enters the following:

#### ORDER

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1. Respondent, Steven B. Wright, is hereby suspended from the practice law.
2. This order shall be effective 30 days after it is served upon Respondent by mailing a copy of the order by regular mail to the following address: 404 North Third Street, Suite 111, Wilmington, NC 28401.
3. Respondent shall comply with all the wind-down provisions of 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0128, as provided in 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135(h).
4. Any petition by Respondent to be reinstated to the practice of law shall be governed by 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135(i).

This the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

  
Stephanie N. Davis, Chair  
Disciplinary Hearing Commission