



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S06Y0644

Atlanta February 13, 2006

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

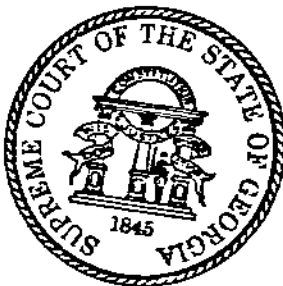
IN THE MATTER OF ELDRIDGE SUGGS IV.

This disciplinary matter is before the Court pursuant to the Report and Recommendation ("R&R") of a special master on Respondent Eldridge Suggs IV's petition for voluntary discipline which he filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (c) after the State Bar filed a Formal Complaint. The special master recommends that the Court accept Respondent's petition and that it impose a Review Panel Reprimand for his admitted violation of Rules 1.7 and 4.2 of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct found in Bar Rule 4-102 (d).

The record reflects that Respondent, a member of the Bar since 1997, was hired to represent a client both in her effort to obtain child support from her ex-husband and in her effort to obtain damages for the wrongful death of her (and her ex-husband's) son, who was accidentally shot and killed by another child. For his part, the client's ex-husband hired one attorney to pursue his claim for his son's wrongful death and a second attorney to defend Suggs' client's claims for child support. After Suggs' demand letter to the insurance company in the wrongful death action produced a tender of the policy limits, he believed that he was entitled to the majority (if not all) of the attorneys' fees but the attorney hired by the ex-husband disagreed. Their disagreement left pending a question as to how the proceeds of the insurance company's tender would be disbursed and thus prevented finalization of the settlement with the insurance company. In the meantime, the child support action proceeded to a hearing. In an effort to obtain the attorneys' fees to which he felt entitled in the wrongful death action, Suggs negotiated with the attorney representing the ex-husband in the child support action to settle that

matter with an agreement that included provisions resolving the dispute over the division of the attorneys' fees from the wrongful death case. Although Suggs undertook this action with knowledge that the ex-husband was represented by another attorney in the wrongful death case, he made no prior effort to notify or advise that attorney of his actions. After the agreement was reached, Suggs contacted the insurance company claiming to represent both parents in the wrongful death action and accepting the insurance company's tender as settlement of the parents' wrongful death claims. The ex-husband then terminated the services of the attorney hired to represent him in the wrongful death action. Ultimately, however, the parties were able to resolve this matter to their mutual satisfaction.

Based on the above, this Court agrees with the Respondent, the State Bar and the special master that Suggs has violated Rules 1.7 and 4.2 of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct found in Bar Rule 4-102 (d). This Court further agrees that, given the mitigating circumstances which include no prior history of disciplinary action, cooperation with disciplinary authorities, remorse, and good character, the appropriate sanction in this case is as proposed by Respondent. Accordingly, it hereby is ordered that for his disciplinary violations Eldridge Suggs IV be administered a Review Panel reprimand pursuant to Bar Rules 4-102 (b) (4) and 4-220 (b).



SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I hereby certify that the above is a true extract from
the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia

Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto
affixed the day and year last above written.

, Chief Deputy Clerk