

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
FORSYTH COUNTY

12616
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

FILE 98 cv 590

1998 SEP 10 AM 10:35

IN RE: RONALD B. BLACK,
ATTORNEY AT LAW

)
) FORSYTH COUNTY, C.S.C.
) BY **CONSENT ORDER**
)

THIS CAUSE coming on to be heard on September 10, 1998 upon The North Carolina State Bar's petition and a proposed Consent Order to transfer Respondent Ronald B. Black to disability inactive status, and pursuant to the Court's inherent authority over attorneys as officers of the Court. Having reviewed the petition and such evidence as this Court deems necessary to support this Consent Order, the Court finds as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar, is a body duly organized under the laws of the State 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 promulgated thereunder.
2. Respondent, Ronald B. Black was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in 1984 and is and was at all times referred to herein, an attorney at law licensed to practice in North Carolina subject to the rules and regulations of the North Carolina State Bar, Rules of Professional Conduct and the laws of the State of North Carolina.
3. During all times referred to herein, Respondent was actively engaged in the practice of the law in the State of North Carolina and maintained a law office in Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, North Carolina.
4. Respondent is unable and has failed to perform his professional duties to clients in that
 - (a) Respondent has difficulty completing legal matters entrusted to him by clients, such as failing to complete service of civil summons and complaint in an uncontested divorce proceeding entitled *Wheeler v. Wheeler*, 98 CvD 6325, Forsyth County, and failing to follow through in obtaining the uncontested judgment of absolute divorce in the same case.
 - (b) Respondent has closed his practice of law, formerly located at 3504 Vest Mill Road, Suite 29, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103, because of health and

stress-related reasons. He has moved his practice of law to his home located at 731 Hertford Road, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27104.

- (c) The telephone at Respondent's former law office was disconnected without a forwarding telephone number. Respondent failed to advise his clients that he was closing his office and where he can be reached concerning legal matters.
 - (d) Respondent is involved in proceedings to dissolve his own marriage.
 - (e) On August 31, 1998, Len Bogaty, and investigator for the Petitioner, and the undersigned Deputy Counsel visited Respondent at his residence in Winston-Salem. Respondent indicated that he has been in treatment for depression by Dr. Claudia Sheppard, a psychiatrist, for approximately three years. He further stated that he is suffering from stress related to the dissolution of his marriage.
 - (f) Respondent has no intention to continue practicing law. He acknowledges his inability to perform tasks on behalf of his clients and specifically that he failed to carry out the representation of Mr. Wheeler as set out in paragraph (a) above.
5. Respondent has been afforded an opportunity to consult with counsel of his choosing and has elected not to do so.

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Court concludes as follows:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW


1. This Court has jurisdiction to hear this matter pursuant to its inherent authority over attorneys as officers of the Court.
2. Respondent has the legal capacity to consent to this Order. Respondent is over eighteen years of age and is not incompetent within the meaning of Chapter 122C of the North Carolina General Statutes or similar laws of any jurisdiction.
3. Respondent is disabled within the meaning of N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Rules & Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar, Subchapter B, Discipline & Disability Rules, Sections .0103(18), in that Black suffers from a mental or physical condition that impairs his professional judgment, performance or competence.

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Respondent Ronald B. Black be and hereby is transferred to inactive status as a member of the North Carolina Bar, and that this transfer is effective immediately. Upon entry of this Order the Court acknowledges that Respondent has surrendered to the Court his license to practice law. Upon overcoming his disability and regaining capacity to engage in the practice of law, Respondent may petition the


North Carolina State Bar for transfer to active status in accordance with N.C. Admin. Code, Rules & Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar, Subchapter B, Discipline & Disability Rules, Section .0125(c).

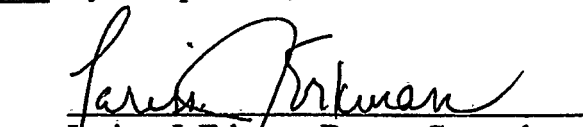
A copy of this Order shall be served upon Respondent and upon the Secretary of The North Carolina State Bar.

This the 10th day of September, 1998.


Honorable Judson D. DeRamus, Jr.
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
21st Judicial District

CONSENTED TO AND AGREED, this the 3 day of September, 1998:


Ronald B. Black, Attorney at Law


Larissa J. Erkman, Deputy Counsel
The North Carolina State Bar