

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION
(By Consent)

Case Nos. 99-104-GA; 00-137-GA

Notice Issued: January 11, 2001

Frenonia Walls, P-45757, Southfield, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Tri-County Hearing Panel #13

1. Suspension - 1 Year;
2. Effective October 5, 2000.

The respondent and the Grievance Administrator filed a stipulation for a consent order of discipline in accordance with MCR 9.115(F)(5). The stipulation was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. The respondent offered a plea of no contest to the charges of misconduct in Formal Complaints 99-104-GA and 00-137-GA, to wit: In a divorce action, respondent failed to file a timely return of service which resulted in the divorce action being dismissed; and failed to seek a QDRO for her client after the divorce action was reinstated. In another divorce action, respondent failed to undertake discovery concerning 401(k) pension issues; and failed to explain the divorce proceedings to the extent necessary for her client to make informed decisions. In a third divorce action, after obtaining an order to show cause against her client's ex-husband, respondent failed to pursue further collection efforts. In a clear title action, respondent failed to promptly initiate an action to clear title. In two other divorce actions, respondent failed to ensure that non-lawyers associated with her office did not engage in the practice of law and/or hold themselves out as an attorney. Further, Respondent failed to take necessary action on her clients' behalf; failed to maintain reasonable communications with her clients; and charged illegal or clearly excessive fees in three matters. Finally, respondent failed to answer three requests for investigation served by the Grievance Administrator.

Respondent's conduct was found to be in violation of MCR 9.103(C); MCR 9.104(1)-(4) and (7); MCR 9.113(A); MCR 9.113(B)(2); and Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1(a)-(c); 1.2(a); 1.3; 1.4; 1.5(a); 3.2; 5.3(a)-(c); 8.1(b); and 8.4(a)-(c). The hearing panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law be suspended for one year to run concurrently with a 180 day suspension entered in GA v Frenonia Walls, Case No. 99-198-MZ. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$104.65.