

NOTICE OF PROBATION
(By Consent)

Case No. 98-210-GA

Issued: October 11, 2000

James R. Johnson, P-37936, Saginaw, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Midland County Hearing Panel #1.

1. Probation - 2 Years;
2. Effective October 11, 2000.

The respondent and the Grievance Administrator filed a stipulation for a consent order of discipline in accordance with MCR 9.115(f)(5) which was approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission and accepted by the hearing panel. Respondent offered a plea of no contest to the charges of misconduct contained in Counts One through Four of Formal Complaint 98-210-GA, to wit: In one tax matter, respondent failed to file a petition and other required pleadings with the Michigan Tax Tribunal. In another tax matter, respondent failed take further action on his client's behalf after filing an appearance. In both matters, respondent failed to maintain reasonable communications with his clients or respond to his clients' inquiries regarding the status of their matters; abandoned his clients' representation; failed to perform services for which he was retained; and failed to return the unearned fees. Respondent's conduct was found to be in violation of MCR 9.104(1)-(4); and Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1(a)-(c); 1.2(a); 1.3; 1.4; 1.5(a); 1.15(b); 1.16(d); 3.2; and 8.4(a) and (c). The parties agreed that Count Five of Formal Complaint 98-210-GA should be dismissed and that respondent should be placed on probation for a period of two years. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$615.17.