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STATE OF MICHIGAN

# Attorney Discipline Board



JOHN F. VAN BOLT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
GENERAL COUNSEL

SUITE 1260  
333 W. FORT STREET  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226  
Area Code 313 963-5553

## NOTICE OF INCREASED SUSPENSION

File Nos. DP 38/86; DP 154/86

David F. Cassleman, P 23407, 448 Leonard Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 by the Attorney Discipline Board increasing a suspension of six months ordered by Grand Rapids Hearing Panel #1.

- 1) Suspension - one year;
- 2) Effective June 11, 1987.

The Respondent failed to answer two Formal Complaints consolidated for hearing and he did not appear at the hearing. The Panel concluded that misconduct was established, including Respondent's failure to act on his client's behalf in a child support matter, his false statements to his client concerning the status of that case, his failure to answer the Request for Investigation served by the Grievance Administrator, and his failure to answer the Formal Complaint. Respondent's conduct was found to be in violation of MCR 9.104(1-4,7) and Canons 1, 6 & 7 of the Code of Professional Responsibility, DR 1-101(A)(4-6); DR 6-101(A)(1-3) and DR 7-101(A)(1-3). Costs were assessed in the amount of \$262.28.

In addition to the reinstatement requirements of MCR 9.123(B) and MCR 9.124, the Panel specifically conditioned Respondent's reinstatement upon his discharge of the judgment against him in favor of the complainant in the amount of \$1231.44 for damages arising from her loss of child support.

Petitions for review were filed by the Respondent and the Grievance Administrator. Respondent did not appear at the show cause proceedings before the Board on March 23, 1987. The Board increased discipline to a suspension of one year noting Respondent's failure to appear at any stage of the proceedings, his failure to offer mitigating evidence, and the aggravating effect of a prior suspension for 120 days. The Board further noted Respondent's deliberate misrepresentation to his client concerning the status of her case stating that an attorney has a special duty to promote public confidence in our legal institutions and not use the legal system as a scapegoat for his or her own neglect. Costs in the review proceeding were assessed in the amount of \$43.40.

NOTE: Respondent's license to practice law has been suspended continuously since September 17, 1986 as the result of a 120 days suspension in a prior matter. See Notice of Suspension dated September 19, 1986.

  
John F. VanBolt

Dated:  1987

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