



FILED

Jun 14 2024

THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
Appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas

**Constable Return of Individual**

Cause #: 69030

Tracking #: J7117499

In the case of STATE BAR OF TEXAS VS IN THE MATTER OF WILLIAM HERRING STATE BAR CARD NO 24071746 a NOTICE and attached FIRST AMENDED PETITION FOR COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE, NOTICE OF HEARING, and EXHIBITS 1-5 was issued by the STATE BAR OF TEXAS - Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel court of County, and came to hand on the 3 day of May, 2024 at 9:40AM to be delivered at 701 N SAN JACINTO ST, HOUSTON, TX 77002 by delivering to: HERRING, MASON WILLIAM

**(Attempted service at 701 N SAN JACINTO ST, HOUSTON, TX, 77002 unless otherwise noted.)**

Date	Time	Deputy Name	Agency	Service Attempt Type	Attempted Address	Remarks
5/15/2024	2:29:00 PM	ROBERTA CUELLAR	1	SERVED	701 N SAN JACINTO ST HOUSTON TX 77002	
5/2/2024	12:43:12 PM	RHONDA PIERRE	5	OTHER	711 HOLY ROOD LN HOUSTON TX 77024	TRANSFER TO 701 SAN JACINTO
5/2/2024	12:41:15 PM	RHONDA PIERRE	5	OTHER	711 HOLY ROOD LN HOUSTON TX 77024	DEPUTY CHECKED THE HARRIS COUNTY JAIL WEBSITE AND IT SHOWS THE DEFENDANT TO BE IN JAIL
5/2/2024	12:39:11 PM	RHONDA PIERRE	5	PHONE CALL / EMAIL	711 HOLY ROOD LN HOUSTON TX 77024	RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM DEFENDANT'S WIFE ATTORNEY ADVISING THE DEFENDANT IS IN THE HARRIS COUNTY JAIL.
4/30/2024	12:00:00 PM	RHONDA PIERRE	5	NO ANSWER/LEFT CARD	711 HOLY ROOD LN - HOUSTON, TX 77024	GATED, UNABLE TO REACH FRONT DOOR, LEFT DOOR HANGER ON CALL BOX

**Service of Individual**

Executed in Harris County, Texas by delivering to each of the within name defendant by PERSONAL SERVICE; a true copy of this NOTICE together with the accompanying copy of the FIRST AMENDED PETITION FOR COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE, NOTICE OF HEARING, and EXHIBITS 1-5, at the following times and places:

Name	Date	Time	Full Address of Service
HERRING, MASON WILLIAM	5/15/2024	2:29PM	701 N SAN JACINTO ST HOUSTON TX 77002

**Constable Return of Individual**

Cause #: 69030

Tracking #: J7117499

Fee Due \$ 0.00

by Deputy ROBERTA CUELLAR - 1C64  
Printed

Deputy Signature 

Attempts: 1

Total Attempts: 5

**Alan Rosen , Constable Precinct #1**

**Harris County Texas**

1302 Preston, 3rd Floor

Houston Texas 77002

713.755.5200

**Constable Return of Individual**

Cause #: 69030

Tracking #: J7117499

In the case of STATE BAR OF TEXAS VS IN THE MATTER OF WILLIAM HERRING STATE BAR CARD NO 24071746 a NOTICE and attached FIRST AMENDED PETITION FOR COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE, NOTICE OF HEARING, and EXHIBITS 1-5 was issued by the STATE BAR OF TEXAS - Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel court of County, and came to hand on the 29 day of April, 2024 at 11:20AM to be delivered at 711 HOLY ROOD LN, HOUSTON, TX 77024 by delivering to: HERRING, MASON WILLIAM

**Attempted Service**

**(Attempted service at 711 HOLY ROOD LN, HOUSTON, TX, 77024 unless otherwise noted.)**

Date	Time	Deputy Name	Agency	Service Attempt Type	Attempted Address	Remarks
5/2/2024	12:43:12 PM	RHONDA PIERRE	5	OTHER	711 HOLY ROOD LN HOUSTON TX 77024	TRANSFER TO 701 SAN JACINTO SPN# 03145091 JA07/2D2
5/2/2024	12:41:15 PM	RHONDA PIERRE	5	OTHER	711 HOLY ROOD LN HOUSTON TX 77024	DEPUTY CHECKED THE HARRIS COUNTY JAIL WEBSITE AND IT SHOWS THE DEFENDANT TO BE IN JAIL
5/2/2024	12:39:11 PM	RHONDA PIERRE	5	PHONE CALL / EMAIL	711 HOLY ROOD LN HOUSTON TX 77024	RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM DEFENDANT'S WIFE ATTORNEY ADVISING THE DEFENDANT IS IN THE HARRIS COUNTY JAIL.
4/30/2024	12:00:00 PM	RHONDA PIERRE	5	NO ANSWER/LEFT CARD	711 HOLY ROOD LN - HOUSTON, TX 77024	GATED, UNABLE TO REACH FRONT DOOR, LEFT DOOR HANGER ON CALL BOX

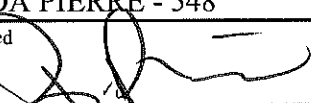
NOT EXECUTED to the defendant: HERRING, MASON WILLIAM

The information received as to the whereabouts of the said defendant being:

Fee Due \$ 0.00

by Deputy RHONDA PIERRE - 548

Deputy Signature

Printed 

Attempts:

4

Total Attempts:

4

**Ted Heap , Constable Precinct #5**

**Harris County Texas**

17423 Katy Freeway  
Houston Texas 77094  
281.463.6666



**HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**PROCESS & SERVE CIVIL DOC**

**Official Receipt**

**DATE:** 04/29/2024  
GC

STATE BAR OF TEXAS  
1414 COLORADO, FINANCE  
DIVISION  
AUSTIN TX , 78701  
800/204-2222

**RECEIPT:** 000000208102

**Case#** 69030

**TOTAL AMOUNT:** \$ 75

**Description:** IN THE MATTER OF MASON WILLIAM HERRING, STATE BAR CARD NO 24071746

<u>ITEM ID</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF UNITS</u>	<u>LINE TOTAL</u>
108086	NOTICE 100030510101425160 69030	\$75	1	\$75

**TOTAL PAYMENT DUE:** \$ 75

<u>PAYMENT METHOD</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Desc/Check/MO/Auth No</u>
CHCK	\$ 75	298364

**PAYMENT TOTAL:** \$ 75

**CHANGE DUE:** \$ 0

*USER ID:* 101496  
2024-APR-29 07:51:09.000000 AM

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel

April 24, 2024

Harris County Constable Pct. 5  
17423 Katy Freeway  
Houston, TX 77094

Re: Cause No. 69030; *In the Matter of Mason William Herring, State Bar Card No. 24071746*,  
Before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals, Appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas

Dear Hon. Constable:

Attached please find a copy of a letter dated April 24, 2024, addressed to Jenny Hodgkins and the Commission for Lawyer Discipline's First Amended Petition for Compulsory Discipline, which includes exhibits and a Notice of Hearing, in connection with the above-styled matter. These documents need to be personally served on **Mason William Herring**. **The home address we have is 711 Holy Rood Lane, Houston, TX 77024. We also have an office address of 1360 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 2100, Houston, 77056. Deadline for service is June 22, 2024.**

Once you have served the documents, please complete the attached affidavit before a notary public and return the packet to me. **The affidavit must be completely filled out with the name of the process server, the date and time the officer received the process for service, the month, day, year, and time served. Also, the address must be complete with the number of the street, street address, city, county, state, and zip code.**

**\*\*\*Please do not utilize anything other than the affidavit provided herein for your return of service.\*\*\***

Please return the completed affidavit along with the duplicate copy of documents being served in the enclosed envelope. Check number 298364 is enclosed to cover the cost of service. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me at 512.427.1333.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

//s//

Tanya Galinger  
Legal Assistant

430-24 12PM

gated

548

BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
APPOINTED BY  
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

pct. 1 1064  
RUSH  
05/15/24  
2:29 PM  
J7117499  
APR 29 2024

IN THE MATTER OF  
MASON WILLIAM HERRING,  
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24071746

§  
§  
§

CAUSE NO. 69030

711 Holy Road Ln  
Houston TX 77024

AFFIDAVIT

6-22-24

THE STATE OF TEXAS

1360 Post Oak Blvd  
Ste 2100  
Houston TX 77056

701 N SAN Jacinto  
Hou, TX 77002 402

COUNTY OF HARRIS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows:

"My name is \_\_\_\_\_ I am employed by \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_

I am over the age of 18 years, of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and state the following:

I have no interest pecuniary or otherwise in Cause No. 69030; *In the Matter of Mason William Herring, State Bar Card No. 24071746*; Before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals, Appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas.

The following documents came to hand for service on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_m.: A letter dated April 24, 2024, addressed to Jenny Hodgkins and the Commission for Lawyer Discipline's First Amended Petition for Compulsory Discipline, which includes exhibits and a Notice of Hearing.

On \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_m., I delivered in hand to a person known to me to be Mason William Herring at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (full address, city, state and zip code), a letter dated April 24, 2024, addressed to Jenny Hodgkins and the Commission for Lawyer Discipline's First Amended Petition for Compulsory Discipline, which includes exhibits and a Notice of Hearing, true and correct copies of which are attached hereto."

FURTHER Affiant saith not.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name)

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

(Stamp or seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR  
THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOT \$75 #208102

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



F I L E D

Apr 24 2024

THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
Appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas

Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel

April 24, 2024

Ms. Jenny Hodgkins  
Board of Disciplinary Appeals  
Supreme Court of Texas  
P. O. Box 12426  
Austin, Texas 78711

*Via e-filing filing@txboda.org*

Re: 69030; *In the Matter of Mason William Herring, State Bar Card No. 24071746*; Before the  
Supreme Court of Texas Board of Disciplinary Appeals.

Dear Ms. Hodgkins:

Attached for filing, please find the First Amended Petition for Compulsory Discipline of Respondent, Mason William Herring, which includes a Notice of Hearing.

A true and correct copy of this letter, and a file-marked copy of the First Amended Petition for Compulsory Discipline and Notice of Hearing will be served on Mr. Herring.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Amanda M. Kates  
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel  
State Bar of Texas

AMK/tbg  
Attachment



FILED

Apr 24 2024

THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
Appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas

BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
APPOINTED BY  
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

IN THE MATTER OF §  
MASON WILLIAM HERRING § CAUSE NO. 69030  
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24071746 §

FIRST AMENDED PETITION FOR COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE

TO THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS:

Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline (hereinafter called "Petitioner"), brings this action against Respondent, Mason William Herring, (hereinafter called "Respondent"), showing as follows:

1. This action is commenced by Petitioner pursuant to Part VIII of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Petitioner is providing Respondent a copy of this Board's procedures for handling a compulsory discipline matter by attaching a copy of such procedures to this petition.
2. Respondent, Mason William Herring, may be served with a true and correct copy of this First Amended Petition for Compulsory Discipline, its attachments, as well as a notice of hearing, at Mason William Herring, 1360 Post Oak Blvd., Ste. 2100, Houston, Texas 77056-3023.
3. On or about November 4, 2022, Respondent was charged by Indictment (Exhibit 1) with Assault of Pregnant Person, in Cause Number 1772106, styled *The State of Texas vs. Mason William Herring 711 Holy Rood Ln Houston, TX 77024*, in the 185<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas, that states in pertinent part as follows:

The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, MASON WILLIAM HERRING, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about March 17, 2022, did then and there unlawfully, intentionally and knowingly cause bodily injury to Catherine Herring, hereinafter called the Complainant, by placing a substance containing the drug Misoprostol into a liquid and giving it



to the Complainant to ingest, and at the time of the assault the defendant knew the complainant was pregnant.

4. On or about December 14, 2022, Respondent was charged by Indictment (Exhibit 2) with Attempted Injury to a Child SBI, in Cause Number 1798932, styled *The State of Texas vs. Mason William Herring 711 Holy Rood Ln Houston, TX 77024*, in the 185<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas, that states in pertinent part as follows:

The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Hanis County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, MASON WILLIAM HERRING, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about March 17, 2022, did then and there unlawfully, The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, MASON WILLIAM HERRING, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about March 17, 2022, did then and there unlawfully and intentionally, with the specific intent to commit the offense of Injury to a Child Serious Bodily Injury of J. G. H., hereafter styled the Complainant, do an act, to-wit: intentionally and knowingly attempt to cause serious bodily injury to the Complainant, a child younger than fifteen years of age, by placing a substance containing the drug Misoprostol into a liquid and giving that liquid to Catherine Herring, hereinafter referred to as the mother of the Complainant, to ingest, knowing that the Mother of the Complainant was pregnant with the Complainant, which amounted to more than mere preparation that tended to but failed to effect the commission of the offense intended.

5. On or about February 7, 2024, a Judgment of Conviction by Court – Waiver of Jury Trial (Exhibit 3) was filed in Cause Number 177210601010, styled *The State of Texas v. Herring, Mason William*, in the 185<sup>th</sup> District Court Harris County, Texas, wherein Respondent pleaded guilty to Felony – Level 3 offence of ASSAULT OF PREGNANT PERSON. Respondent received 10 years confinement in TDCJ, Correctional Institutions Division with the Sentence of Confinement Suspended, Defendant Placed on Community Supervision for 10 Years. The Court further ordered Defendant confined 180 days in the County Jail as a condition of community supervision.

Other terms of the community supervision included:

- 1) Commit no offense against the laws of this or any other State or of the United States. You are to report any arrests within 24 hours.
- 2) Not use, possess, or consume any illegal drug or prescription drug not currently prescribed to you by a medical professional. You shall bring all current prescription containers to your Community Supervision Officer. If new medication is prescribed, you must bring the new prescription containers by your next scheduled report date.
- 3) Report to the Community Supervision Officer as directed for the remainder of the supervision term unless so ordered differently by the Court.
- 4) Permit a Community Supervision Officer to visit you at your home, place of employment or elsewhere.
- 5) Work at suitable employment and/or attend school full-time. Present either verification of employment or provide a log of all attempts to secure employment to your Community Supervision Officer as directed. You must notify HCCSCD of any change in your employment status by your next scheduled reporting date.
- 6) Abide by the rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (hereinafter referred to as HCCSCD).
- 7) Remain within Harris County, Texas or any counties directly touching Harris County, Texas. You may not travel outside these locations unless you receive prior written permission from the Court through your Community Supervision Officer.
- 8) Notify HCCSCD by your next report date of any change in residence.
- 9) Submit a non-diluted, valid, unaltered sample for the purpose of alcohol/drug monitoring at the request of the HCCSCD.
- 10) Support your dependents as required by law. Provide your Community Supervision Officer with proof that you are in compliance with all court-ordered support of dependents.

- 11) Not ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition, or attempt to ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition.
- 12) Pay all fees through HCCSCD. All payments MUST be in the form of a Money Order, Cashier's Check or credit card. Online payments may be made with a credit card at PAYCSCD.COM. A \$2.00 transaction fee will be charged by HCCSCD to process each payment.
- 13) Pay a fine of \$.00 and Court Costs at the rate of \$45.00 per month beginning 02/07/2025 to Harris County through HCCSCD. Court grants credit for 0 days served.
- 14) Submit to an assessment through HCCSCD Assessment Unit as directed. Participate and successfully complete any program(s) as indicated by the assessment or until further order of the court.
- 15) Submit to an evaluation of your Educational skill level by 02/07/2025. If it is determined that you have not attained the average skill of students who have completed the sixth grade in public schools in this State, you shall participate in a program that teaches functionally illiterate persons to read. If you are non-English speaking, you will participate in English as a Second Language (ESL) program, if it is determined there is a need in order for you to meet the state mandate beginning upon referral until successfully discharged or released by further order of the Court.
- 16) Participate in a domestic violence treatment program, specifically a Batterer Intervention Prevention Program (BIPP), beginning 02/07/2025.
- 17) Not consume, or possess alcoholic beverages.
- 18) Have no contact with CATHERINE PRESSLY HERRING & J.H. in person, in writing, by telephone, via the internet, a third party or any other means for any reason except as specifically permitted by the Court.
- 19) Serve 180 DAYS of confinement in the Harris County Jail or otherwise directed by the court beginning 03/01/2024.
- 20) NO POSSESSION OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION.

- 21) CLIENT SHALL HAVE NO CONTACT W/ CATHERINE PRESSLY HERRING & J.H. OUTSIDE OF FAMILY COURT ORDERS.

6. On or about February 7, 2024, a Judgment of Conviction by Court – Waiver of Jury Trial (Exhibit 4) was filed in Cause Number 17893201010, styled *The State of Texas v. Herring, Mason William*, in the 185<sup>th</sup> District Court Harris County, Texas, wherein Respondent pleaded guilty to Felony - Level 3 offense of ATT INJ CHILD/ELD/DIS W/INT SBI. Respondent received 10 years confinement in TDCJ, Correctional Institutions Division with the Sentence of Confinement Suspended, Defendant Placed on Community Supervision for 10 Years. The Court further Ordered Defendant confined 180 days in the County Jail as a condition of community supervision.

Other terms of the community supervision included:

- 1) Commit no offense against the laws of this or any other State or of the United States. You are to report any arrests within 24 hours.
- 2) Not use, possess, or consume any illegal drug or prescription drug not currently prescribed to you by a medical professional. You shall bring all current prescription containers to your Community Supervision Officer. If new medication is prescribed, you must bring the new prescription containers by your next scheduled report date.
- 3) Report to the Community Supervision Officer as directed for the remainder of the supervision term unless so ordered differently by the Court.
- 4) Permit a Community Supervision Officer to visit you at your home, place of employment or elsewhere.
- 5) Work at suitable employment and/or attend school full-time. Present either verification of employment or provide a log of all attempts to secure employment to your Community Supervision Officer as directed. You must notify HCCSCD of any change in your employment status by your next scheduled reporting date.

- 6) Abide by the rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (hereinafter referred to as HCCSCD).
- 7) Remain within Harris County, Texas or any counties directly touching Harris County, Texas. You may not travel outside these locations unless you receive prior written permission from the Court through your Community Supervision Officer.
- 8) Notify HCCSCD by your next report date of any change in residence.
- 9) Submit a non-diluted, valid, unaltered sample for the purpose of alcohol/drug monitoring at the request of the HCCSCD.
- 10) Support your dependents as required by law. Provide your Community Supervision Officer with proof that you are in compliance with all court-ordered support of dependents.
- 11) Not ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition, or attempt to ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition.
- 12) Pay all fees through HCCSCD. All payments MUST be in the form of a Money Order, Cashier's Check or credit card. Online payments may be made with a credit card at PAYCSCD.COM. A \$2.00 transaction fee will be charged by HCCSCD to process each payment.
- 13) Pay a Supervision Fee at the rate of \$60.00 per month for the duration of your community supervision beginning 02/07/2025 to HCCSCD.
- 14) Pay a \$12.50 fee for a Client Card by 02/07/2025 to HCCSCD if the client does not have a valid state issued Driver's License or Texas ID Card.
- 15) Pay a fine of \$.00 and Court Costs at the rate of \$45.00 per month beginning 02/07/2025 to Harris County through HCCSCD. Court grants credit for 0 days served.
- 16) Pay \$10.00 per month to cover expenses of drug testing beginning 02/07/2025.
- 17) Report in person to HCCSCD to provide a DNA sample to the Department of Public Safety at the direction of and through

HCCSCD for the purpose of creating a DNA Record by 02/07/2025 and pay a fee by this date of \$25.00 unless a sample has already been submitted under other state law.

- 18) Submit to an assessment through HCCSCD Assessment Unit as directed. Participate and successfully complete any program(s) as indicated by the assessment or until further order of this court.
- 19) Pay a one-time fee of \$100.00 to HCCSCD for the purpose of screening and assessment.
- 20) Submit to an evaluation of your Educational skill level by 02/07/2025. If it is determined that you have not attained the average skill of students who have completed the sixth grade in public schools in this State, you shall participate in a program that teaches functionally illiterate persons to read. If you are non-English speaking, you will participate in English as a Second Language (ESL) program, if it is determined there is a need in order for you to meet the state mandate beginning upon referral until successfully discharged or released by further order of the Court.
- 21) Participate in a domestic violence treatment program, specifically a Batterer Intervention Prevention Program (BIPP), beginning 02/07/2025.
- 22) Serve 180 DAYS of confinement in the Harris County Jail or otherwise directed by the court beginning 03/01/2024.
- 23) Not consume, or possess alcoholic beverages.
- 24) Have no contact with CATHERINE PRESSLY HERRING & J.H. in person, in writing, by telephone, via the internet, a third party or any other means for any reason except as specifically permitted by the Court.
- 25) NO POSSESSION OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION.
- 26) CLIENT SHALL HAVE NO CONTACT W/ CATHERINE PRESSLY HERRING & J.H. OUTSIDE OF FAMILY COURT ORDERS.

7. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein, are true and correct copies of the following documents in the Herring criminal case: Indictment in Cause No. 1772106 (Exhibit 1); Indictment in Cause No. 1798932

(Exhibit 2); Judgment of Conviction by Court – Waiver of Jury Trial in Cause No. 177210601010 (Exhibit 3); and Judgment of Conviction by Court – Waiver of Jury Trial in Cause No. 179893201010 (Exhibit 4). Petitioner expects to introduce certified copies of Exhibits 1 through 4 at the time of hearing of this cause.

8. Respondent, Mason William Herring, whose bar card number is 24071746, is the same person as the Mason William Herring who is the subject of the Indictments and Judgments of Conviction – Waiver of Jury Trial described above, true and correct copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibits 1 through 4.

9. Attached hereto as Exhibit 5 and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein is a true and correct copy of an affidavit of Amanda M. Kates, Attorney of Record for Petitioner herein, attesting to the fact that Respondent is the same person as the person who is the subject of the Indictments and Judgments of Conviction by Court – Waiver of Jury Trial entered in the Herring criminal case. Petitioner expects to introduce the original of said affidavit at the time of hearing of this cause.

10. The offenses for which Respondent was convicted are intentional crimes as defined by Rule 1.06(V), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. They are as well serious crimes as defined by Rule 1.06(GG), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

11. Having pled guilty to an intentional crime, and such judgment being final, Respondent should be disbarred as provided in Rule 8.05, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

#### PRAYER

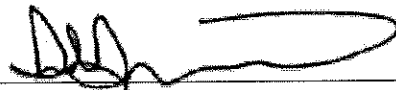
WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays that Respondent be given notice of these proceedings as provided by law and, upon hearing of this matter, that the Board

enter its order disbaring Respondent and for such other and further relief to which Petitioner may be entitled to receive, including costs of court and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

**Seana Willing**  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

**Amanda M. Kates**  
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel  
Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel  
STATE BAR OF TEXAS  
P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711-2487  
Telephone: 512.427.1350  
Facsimile: 512.427.4253  
Email: [amanda.kates@texasbar.com](mailto:amanda.kates@texasbar.com)




Amanda M. Kates  
State Bar Card No. 24075987

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument has been sent for service on Mason William Herring, 1360 Post Oak Blvd., Ste. 2100, Houston, Texas 77056-3023, by personal service on this 24th day of April, 2024.

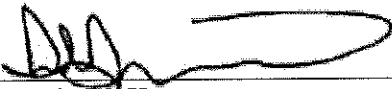


Amanda M. Kates



**NOTICE OF HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a trial on the merits of the First Amended Petition for Compulsory Discipline heretofore sent to be filed with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals on this day, will be held in the courtroom of the Supreme Court of Texas, Tom C. Clark Building, 14th and Colorado Streets, Austin, Texas, at 9:00 a.m. on the **26th day of July, 2024**. The hearing location and format (in-person vs virtual) are subject to change based on conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals will notify the parties of any changes to the hearing location or format.

  
Amanda M. Kates

B

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
VS.  
MASON WILLIAM HERRING  
711 HOLY ROOD LN  
HOUSTON, TX 77024

SPN: 03145091  
DOB: W M 11/10/1984  
DATE PREPARED: 11/3/2022

D.A. LOG NUMBER: 2841402  
CJIS TRACKING NO.:  
BY: AO DA NO: 1978003  
AGENCY: HPD  
O/R NO: 055530122  
ARREST DATE: TO BE

NCIC CODE: 139986  
RELATED CASES: SD-2 CHARGES  
FELONY CHARGE: ASSAULT OF PREGNANT PERSON

CAUSE NO: 1772106  
HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO: 185  
FIRST SETTING DATE:

COURT ORDERED BAIL:  
PRIOR CAUSE NO:  
CHARGE SEQ NUM: 2

**IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:**

The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, **MASON WILLIAM HERRING**, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about **March 17, 2022**, did then and there unlawfully, intentionally and knowingly cause bodily injury to Catherine Herring, hereinafter called the Complainant, by placing a substance containing the drug Misoprostol into a liquid and giving it to the Complainant to ingest, and at the time of the assault the defendant knew the complainant was pregnant.

For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 104963122 - Page 1 of 1

**FILED**  
Marilyn Burgess  
District Clerk

NOV 04 2022

Time: 1:300  
Harris County, Texas  
By: AB  
Deputy

**EXHIBIT**  
**1**

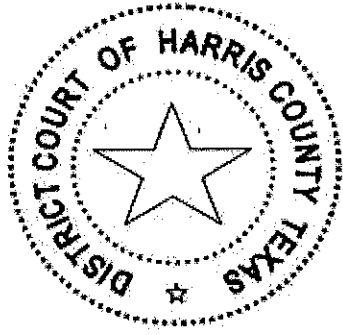
Foreman 351st

*Kay Kew*

AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY OF THE STATE.

FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

INDICTMENT



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.  
Witness my official hand and seal of office this February 12, 2024

Certified Document Number: 104963122 Total Pages: 1

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**In accordance with Texas Government Code 51.301 and 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail [support@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:support@hcdistrictclerk.com)**

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
VS.  
MASON WILLIAM HERRING  
711 HOLY ROOD LN  
HOUSTON, TX 77024

SPN: 03145091 -999  
DOB: W M 11/10/1984 ✓  
DATE PREPARED: 12/13/2022

D.A. LOG NUMBER: 2897804  
CJIS TRACKING NO.: 9269697193D001  
BY: AO DA NO: 1978003  
AGENCY: HPD  
O/R NO: 055530122  
ARREST DATE: TO BE

NCIC CODE: 139933

RELATED CASES: RID: 1772105

FELONY CHARGE: Attempted Injury to Child sBI

CAUSE NO: 1798932  
HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO: 185  
FIRST SETTING DATE:

COURT ORDERED BAIL: \$TO BE SET BY  
JUDGE  
PRIOR CAUSE NO:  
CHARGE SEQ NUM: 1

**IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:**

The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, **MASON WILLIAM HERRING**, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about **March 17, 2022**, did then and there unlawfully, The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, **MASON WILLIAM HERRING**, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about **March 17, 2022**, did then and there unlawfully and intentionally, with the specific intent to commit the offense of Injury to a Child Serious Bodily Injury of J. G. H., hereafter styled the Complainant, do an act, to-wit: intentionally and knowingly attempt to cause serious bodily injury to the Complainant, a child younger than fifteen years of age, by placing a substance containing the drug Misoprostol into a liquid and giving that liquid to Catherine Herring, hereinafter referred to as the mother of the Complainant, to ingest, knowing that the Mother of the Complainant was pregnant with the Complainant, which amounted to more than mere preparation that tended to but failed to effect the commission of the offense intended.

For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 105581966 - Page 1

**FILED**

Marilyn Burgess  
District Clerk

DEC 14 2022

Time: 1A:30  
Harris County, Texas

By: NLO  
Deputy 180th



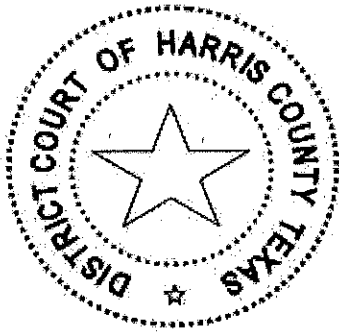
AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY OF THE STATE.

FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

INDICTMENT

EXHIBIT

2



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.  
Witness my official hand and seal of office this February 12, 2024

Certified Document Number: 105581966 Total Pages: 1

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**In accordance with Texas Government Code 51.301 and 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail [support@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:support@hcdistrictclerk.com)**



CAUSE NO. 177210601010

INCIDENT NO. /TRN: 9269697193A001

Pgs-7

THE STATE OF TEXAS

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

IN THE 185TH DISTRICT

V.

COURT

HERRING, MASON WILLIAM

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

STATE ID No.: TX18908622

ADDO  
DIJDG  
DIJWJT  
991  
998  
998

**JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION BY COURT—WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL**

Judge Presiding: **ANDREA BEALL**

Date Sentence Imposed: **2/7/2024**

Attorney for State: **ABNER, STEPHANY**

Attorney for Defendant: **COGDELL, DAN LAMAR**

Offense for which Defendant Convicted:

**ASSAULT OF PREGNANT PERSON**

Charging Instrument:  
**INDICTMENT**

Statute for Offense:

Date of Offense:  
**3/17/2022**

Plea to Offense:  
**GUILTY**

Degree of Offense:  
**3RD DEGREE FELONY**

Findings on Deadly Weapon:  
**N/A**

Terms of Plea Bargain (if any): or  Terms of Plea Bargain are attached and incorporated herein by this reference.  
**10 YEARS TDC PROBATED 10 YEARS**

Reduced from: **N/A**

1<sup>st</sup> Enhancement  
Paragraph: **N/A**

Finding on 1<sup>st</sup> Enhancement  
Paragraph: **N/A**

2<sup>nd</sup> Enhancement  
Paragraph: **N/A**

Finding on 2<sup>nd</sup> Enhancement  
Paragraph: **N/A**

**SENTENCE OF CONFINEMENT SUSPENDED, DEFENDANT PLACED ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR 10 YEARS.**  
(The document setting forth the conditions of community supervision is incorporated herein by this reference.)

Punishment and Place of  
Confinement:

**10 YEARS TDCJ, CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION**

DATE SENTENCE COMMENCES:  
(Date does not apply to confinement served as a condition of community supervision.)

**N/A**

THIS SENTENCE  
SHALL RUN:

**CONCURRENT**

Fines:  
**\$ N/A**

Restitution:  
**\$ N/A**

Restitution Payable to: **N/A**  
(See special finding or order of restitution which is incorporated herein by this reference.)

Court Costs:  
**\$ 290.00**

Reimbursement Fees:  
**\$ 110.00**

Defendant is required to register as sex offender in accordance with Chapter 62, Tex. Code Crim. Proc.  
(For sex offender registration purposes only) The age of the victim at the time of the offense was **N/A**.

Total Jail Time  
Credit:

If Defendant is to serve sentence in county jail or is given credit toward fine and costs, enter days credited below.

**DAYS**

**NOTES: N/A**

Was the victim impact statement returned to the attorney representing the State? **N/A**

(FOR STATE JAIL FELONY OFFENSES ONLY) Is Defendant presumptively entitled to diligent participation credit in accordance with Article 42A.559, Tex. Code Crim. Proc.? **N/A**

This cause was called and the parties appeared. The State appeared by her District Attorney as named above.

Counsel / Waiver of Counsel (select one)

Defendant appeared with counsel.



For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 112656239 - Page 1 of 7

Defendant appeared without counsel and knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waived the right to representation by counsel in writing in open court.

Defendant was tried in absentia.

Both parties announced ready for trial. Defendant waived the right of trial by jury and entered the plea indicated above. It appeared to the Court that Defendant was mentally competent to stand trial, made the plea freely and voluntarily, and was aware of the consequences of the plea. The Court received the plea and entered it of record. After hearing the evidence submitted, if any, the Court **ADJUDGES** Defendant **GUILTY** of the offense indicated above. The Court **FINDS** that the Presentence Investigation, if so ordered, was done according to the applicable provisions of Subchapter F, Chapter 42A, Tex. Code Crim. Proc.

Having been convicted of the offense designated above, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant punished as indicated above and to pay the fine, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution as indicated above and further detailed below.

**Punishment Options (select one)**

**Confinement in State Jail or Institutional Division.** The Court **ORDERS** the authorized agent of the State of Texas or the County Sheriff to take and deliver Defendant to the Director of the Correctional Institutions Division, TDCJ, for placement in confinement in accordance with this judgment. The Court **ORDERS** Defendant remanded to the custody of the County Sheriff until the Sheriff can obey the directions in this paragraph. Upon release from confinement, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant to proceed without unnecessary delay to the District Clerk's office, or any other office designated by the Court or the Court's designee, to pay or arrange to pay any fines, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution due.

**County Jail—Confinement / Confinement in Lieu of Payment.** The Court **ORDERS** Defendant committed to the custody of the County Sheriff immediately or on the date the sentence commences. Defendant shall be confined in the county jail for the period indicated above. Upon release from confinement, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant to proceed without unnecessary delay to the District Clerk's office, or any other office designated by the Court or the Court's designee, to pay or arrange to pay any fines, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution due.

**County Jail—State Jail Felony Conviction.** Pursuant to §12.44(a), Tex. Penal Code, the Court **FINDS** that the ends of justice are best served by imposing confinement permissible as punishment for a Class A misdemeanor instead of a state jail felony. Accordingly, Defendant will serve punishment in the county jail as indicated above. The Court **ORDERS** Defendant committed to the custody of the County Sheriff immediately or on the date the sentence commences. Upon release from confinement, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant to proceed without unnecessary delay to the District Clerk's office, or any other office designated by the Court or the Court's designee, to pay or arrange to pay any fines, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution due.

**Fine Only Payment.** The punishment assessed against Defendant is for a **FINE ONLY**. The Court **ORDERS** Defendant to proceed immediately to the District Clerk's office, or any other office designated by the Court or the Court's designee, to pay or arrange to pay the fine, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution ordered by the Court in this cause.

**Confinement as a Condition of Community Supervision.** The Court **ORDERS** Defendant confined **180** days in the **County Jail** as a condition of community supervision. The period of confinement as a condition of community supervision starts when Defendant arrives at the designated facility, absent a special order to the contrary.

**Fines Imposed Include (check each fine and enter each amount as pronounced by the court):**

- General Fine (§12.32, 12.33, 12.34, or 12.35, Penal Code, or any other Code) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (not to exceed \$10,000)
- Add'l Monthly Fine for Sex Offenders (Art. 42A.653, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ as assessed as a Cond. CS (\$5.00/per month of community supervision)
- Child Abuse Prevention Fine (Art. 102.0186, Code Crim. Proc.) **\$100**
- EMS, Trauma Fine (Art. 102.0185, Code Crim. Proc.) **\$100**
- Family Violence Fine (Art. 42A.504 (b), Code Crim. Proc.) **\$100**
- Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Fine (Art. 102.0171(a), Code Crim. Proc.) **\$50**
- State Traffic Fine (§ 542.4031, Transp. Code) **\$50**
- Children's Advocacy Center Fine - as Cond of CS (Art. 42A.455, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ As assessed in Cond of CS (not to exceed \$50)
- Repayment of Reward Fine (Art. 37.073/42.152, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (To Be Determined by the Court)
- Payment of Fine to Crime Stoppers Organization - as Cond of CS (Art. 42A.301 (b) (19), Code Crim. Proc.) \$ as assessed as a Cond. CS. (not to exceed \$50)
- DWI Traffic Fine (a/k/a Misc. Traffic Fines) (§ 709.001, Transp. Code) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (not to exceed \$6,000)

**Execution of Sentence**

The Court **ORDERS** Defendant's sentence **EXECUTED**. The Court **FINDS** that Defendant is entitled to the jail time credit indicated above. The attorney for the state, attorney for the defendant, the County Sheriff, and any other person having or who had custody of Defendant shall assist the clerk, or person responsible for completing this judgment, in calculating Defendant's credit for time served. All supporting documentation, if any, concerning Defendant's credit for time served is incorporated herein by this reference.

For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 112656239 - Page 2 of 7

**Furthermore, the following special findings or orders apply:**

The Court enters an affirmative finding that the Defendant has been found guilty of a felony. **APPEAL WAIVED, NO PERMISSION TO APPEAL GRANTED.**

SEE THE ATTACHED FIREARM ADMONISHMENT

Fine in Lieu of DL Suspension.

DEF TO SERVE 180 DAYS HCJ AS A COP BEG 03/01/24

FAMILY VIOLENCE:

THE COURT FINDS THAT DEFENDANT WAS PROSECUTED FOR AN OFFENSE UNDER TITLE 5 OF THE PENAL CODE THAT INVOLVED FAMILY VIOLENCE. TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ART. 42.013..

**Date Judgment Entered: February 7, 2024**

X   
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ANDREA BEALL**  
JUDGE PRESIDING

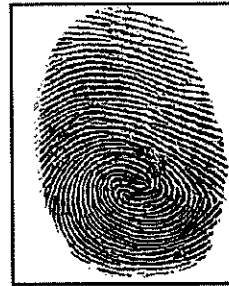
Clerk: C CZEPINSKI

Notice of Appeal Filed: \_

Mandate Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Mandate: \_\_\_\_\_

After Mandate Received, Sentence to Begin Date is: \_\_\_\_\_

Jail Credit: \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS



Thumbprint

For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 112656239 - Page 3 of 7

Case Number: 1772106 Court: 185TH Defendant: **HERRING, MASON WILLIAM**



WRITTEN ADMONITION ON INELIGIBILITY TO POSSESS FIREARM OR AMMUNITION

In accordance with Texas Administrative Code §176.1, the Court hereby admonishes you of the following:

1. You are, by entry of order or judgment, ineligible under Texas law to possess a firearm or ammunition.
2. Beginning now, if you possess a firearm or ammunition it could lead to charges against you. If you have questions about how long you will be ineligible to possess a firearm or ammunition, you should consult an attorney.
3. Under Texas Penal Code §46.01(3):
  - a. **"Firearm"** means any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use
  - b. **"Firearm"** does not include a firearm that may have, as an integral part, a folding knife blade or other characteristics of weapons made illegal by Penal Code Chapter 46 and that is (1) an antique or curio firearm manufactured before 1899 or (2) a replica of an antique or curio firearm manufactured before 1899 but only if the replica does not use rim fire or center fire ammunition.

The statutes listed below are a starting point for ineligibility to possess a firearm or ammunition. For more information about the laws that make you ineligible to possess a firearm or ammunition, or for more information on how long your ineligibility to possess a firearm or ammunition lasts, the Court recommends you contact an attorney.

- Code of Criminal Procedure Article 17.292 – Magistrate’s Order for Emergency Protection
- Code of Criminal Procedure Article 42.0131 – Notice for Persons Convicted of Misdemeanors Involving Family Violence
- Penal Code §46.02 – Unlawful Carrying Weapons
- Penal Code §46.04 – Unlawful Possession of Firearm
- Penal Code §25.07 – Violation of Certain Court Orders or Conditions of Bond in a Family Violence, Child Abuse or Neglect, Sexual Assault or Abuse, Indecent Assault, Stalking, or Trafficking Case
- Family Code §85.026 – Warning on Protective Order

DATE: 02/07/2024

DEFENDANT: 

CASE NUMBER: 177210601010

DEFENDANT NAME: HERRING, MASON WILLIAM

For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 112656239 - Page 4 of 7

STATE OF TEXAS  
 VS.  
 MASON WILLIAM HERRING

185TH DISTRICT COURT  
 OF  
 HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

---

**CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**

---

On this the 7th day of February, 2024, you are sentenced to 10 years confinement in the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTIONAL DIVISION probated to 10 years community supervision for the FELONY - LEVEL 3 offense of ASSAULT OF PREGNANT PERSON in accordance with Article 42A, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, in the 185TH DISTRICT COURT of Harris County, Texas, by the Honorable Andrea Beall Judge Presiding. It is the order of this Court that you abide by the following Conditions of Community Supervision:

1. Commit no offense against the laws of this or any other State or of the United States. You are to report any arrests within 24 hours.
2. Not use, possess, or consume any illegal drug or prescription drug not currently prescribed to you by a medical professional. You shall bring all current prescription containers to your Community Supervision Officer. If new medication is prescribed, you must bring the new prescription containers by your next scheduled report date.
3. Report to the Community Supervision Officer as directed for the remainder of the supervision term unless so ordered differently by the Court.
4. Permit a Community Supervision Officer to visit you at your home, place of employment or elsewhere.
5. Work at suitable employment and/or attend school full-time. Present either verification of employment or provide a log of all attempts to secure employment to your Community Supervision Officer as directed. You must notify HCCSCD of any change in your employment status by your next scheduled reporting date.
6. Abide by the rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (hereinafter referred to as HCCSCD).
7. Remain within Harris County, Texas or any counties directly touching Harris County, Texas. You may not travel outside these locations unless you receive prior written permission from the Court through your Community Supervision Officer.
8. Notify HCCSCD by your next report date of any change in residence.
9. Submit a non-diluted, valid, unaltered sample for the purpose of alcohol/drug monitoring at the request of the HCCSCD.
10. Support your dependents as required by law. Provide your Community Supervision Officer with proof that you are in compliance with all court-ordered support of dependents.
11. Not ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition, or attempt to ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition.

## CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Defendant Mason William Herring

Cause 177210601010

12. Pay all fees through HCCSCD. All payments MUST be in the form of a Money Order, Cashier's Check or credit card. Online payments may be made with a credit card at PAYCSCD.COM. A \$2.00 transaction fee will be charged by HCCSCD to process each payment.
13. Pay a fine of \$.00 and Court Costs at the rate of \$45.00 per month beginning 02/07/2025 to Harris County through HCCSCD. Court grants credit for 0 days served.
14. Submit to an assessment through HCCSCD Assessment Unit as directed. Participate and successfully complete any program(s) as indicated by the assessment or until further order of the court.
15. Submit to an evaluation of your Educational skill level by 02/07/2025. If it is determined that you have not attained the average skill of students who have completed the sixth grade in public schools in this State, you shall participate in a program that teaches functionally illiterate persons to read. If you are non-English speaking, you will participate in English as a Second Language (ESL) program, if it is determined there is a need in order for you to meet the state mandate beginning upon referral until successfully discharged or released by further order of the Court.
16. Participate in a domestic violence treatment program, specifically a Batterer Intervention Prevention Program (BIPP), beginning 02/07/2025.
17. Not use, consume, or possess alcoholic beverages.
18. Have no contact with CATHERINE PRESSLY HERRING & J.H. in person, in writing, by telephone, via the internet, a third party or any other means for any reason except as specifically permitted by the Court.
19. Serve 180 DAYS of confinement in the Harris County Jail or otherwise directed by the court beginning 03/01/2024.
20. NO POSSESSION OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION.
21. CLIENT SHALL HAVE NO CONTACT W/ CATHERINE PRESSLY HERRING & J.H. OUTSIDE OF FAMILY COURT ORDERS.

**CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**

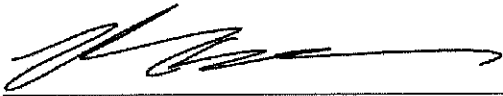
Defendant Mason William Herring

Cause 177210601010

I understand that under the laws of this State, the Court shall determine the terms and conditions of Community Supervision, and may alter or modify said conditions during the period of Community Supervision. I further understand that failure to abide by these Conditions of Community Supervision may result in the revocation of Community Supervision or an adjudication of guilt.

**Court Directive for Release**

Community Supervision expires on February 6, 2034.



SIGN

02/07/2024

Date Signed

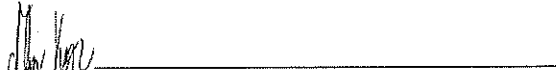
Mason William Herring  
Defendant

Signed this the February 7, 2024.



SIGN

Andrea Beall  
Presiding Judge



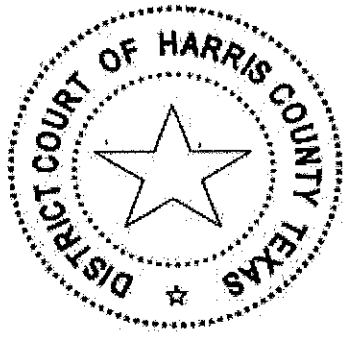
02/07/2024

Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
eys  
Court Liaison Officer

SPN 03145091

Plea Guilty



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this February 12, 2024

Certified Document Number: 112656239 Total Pages: 7

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**In accordance with Texas Government Code 51.301 and 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail [support@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:support@hcdistrictclerk.com)**



THE STATE OF TEXAS

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

IN THE 185TH DISTRICT

V.

COURT

HERRING, MASON WILLIAM

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

STATE ID NO.: TX18908622

**JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION BY COURT—WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL**

Judge Presiding: **ANDREA BEALL**

Date Sentence Imposed: **2/7/2024**

Attorney for State: **ABNER, STEPHANY**

Attorney for Defendant: **COGDELL, DAN LAMAR**

Offense for which Defendant Convicted:

**INJURY CHILD UNDER 15 B/INJURY (3802 49)**

Charging Instrument:

Statute for Offense:

**INDICTMENT**

Date of Offense:

Plea to Offense:

**3/17/2022**

**GUILTY**

Degree of Offense:

Findings on Deadly Weapon:

**3RD DEGREE FELONY**

**N/A**

Terms of Plea Bargain (if any): or  Terms of Plea Bargain are attached and incorporated herein by this reference.

**10 YEARS TDC PROBATED FOR 10 YEARS**

Reduced from: **2ND DEGREE**

1<sup>st</sup> Enhancement

Finding on 1<sup>st</sup> Enhancement

Paragraph: **N/A**

Paragraph: **N/A**

2<sup>nd</sup> Enhancement

Finding on 2<sup>nd</sup> Enhancement

Paragraph: **N/A**

Paragraph: **N/A**

**SENTENCE OF CONFINEMENT SUSPENDED, DEFENDANT PLACED ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR 10 YEARS.**

(The document setting forth the conditions of community supervision is incorporated herein by this reference.)

Punishment and Place of Confinement:

**10 YEARS TDCJ, CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION**

DATE SENTENCE COMMENCES:

**N/A**

THIS SENTENCE SHALL RUN:

**CONCURRENT**

Fines:

Restitution:

Restitution Payable to: **N/A**

**\$ N/A**

**\$ N/A**

(See special finding or order of restitution which is incorporated herein by this reference.)

Court Costs:

Reimbursement Fees:

**\$ 290.00**

**\$ 80.00**

Defendant is required to register as sex offender in accordance with Chapter 62, Tex. Code Crim. Proc.

(For sex offender registration purposes only) The age of the victim at the time of the offense was **N/A**.

Total Jail Time

If Defendant is to serve sentence in county jail or is given credit toward fine and costs, enter days credited below.

Credit:

**DAYS**

**NOTES: N/A**

Was the victim impact statement returned to the attorney representing the State? **N/A**

(FOR STATE JAIL FELONY OFFENSES ONLY) Is Defendant presumptively entitled to diligent participation credit in accordance with Article 42A.559, Tex. Code Crim. Proc.? **N/A**

This cause was called and the parties appeared. The State appeared by her District Attorney as named above.

Counsel / Waiver of Counsel (select one)

Defendant appeared with counsel.



For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 112672787 - Page 1 of 8

Defendant appeared without counsel and knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waived the right to representation by counsel in writing in open court.

Defendant was tried in absentia.

Both parties announced ready for trial. Defendant waived the right of trial by jury and entered the plea indicated above. It appeared to the Court that Defendant was mentally competent to stand trial, made the plea freely and voluntarily, and was aware of the consequences of the plea. The Court received the plea and entered it of record. After hearing the evidence submitted, if any, the Court ADJUDGES Defendant GUILTY of the offense indicated above. The Court FINDS that the Presentence Investigation, if so ordered, was done according to the applicable provisions of Subchapter F, Chapter 42A, Tex. Code Crim. Proc.

Having been convicted of the offense designated above, the Court ORDERS Defendant punished as indicated above and to pay the fine, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution as indicated above and further detailed below.

**Punishment Options (select one)**

**Confinement in State Jail or Institutional Division.** The Court ORDERS the authorized agent of the State of Texas or the County Sheriff to take and deliver Defendant to the Director of the Correctional Institutions Division, TDCI, for placement in confinement in accordance with this judgment. The Court ORDERS Defendant remanded to the custody of the County Sheriff until the Sheriff can obey the directions in this paragraph. Upon release from confinement, the Court ORDERS Defendant to proceed without unnecessary delay to the District Clerk's office, or any other office designated by the Court or the Court's designee, to pay or arrange to pay any fines, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution due.

**County Jail—Confinement / Confinement in Lieu of Payment.** The Court ORDERS Defendant committed to the custody of the County Sheriff immediately or on the date the sentence commences. Defendant shall be confined in the county jail for the period indicated above. Upon release from confinement, the Court ORDERS Defendant to proceed without unnecessary delay to the District Clerk's office, or any other office designated by the Court or the Court's designee, to pay or arrange to pay any fines, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution due.

**County Jail—State Jail Felony Conviction.** Pursuant to §12.44(a), Tex. Penal Code, the Court FINDS that the ends of justice are best served by imposing confinement permissible as punishment for a Class A misdemeanor instead of a state jail felony. Accordingly, Defendant will serve punishment in the county jail as indicated above. The Court ORDERS Defendant committed to the custody of the County Sheriff immediately or on the date the sentence commences. Upon release from confinement, the Court ORDERS Defendant to proceed without unnecessary delay to the District Clerk's office, or any other office designated by the Court or the Court's designee, to pay or arrange to pay any fines, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution due.

**Fine Only Payment.** The punishment assessed against Defendant is for a FINE ONLY. The Court ORDERS Defendant to proceed immediately to the District Clerk's office, or any other office designated by the Court or the Court's designee, to pay or arrange to pay the fine, court costs, reimbursement fees, and restitution ordered by the Court in this cause.

**Confinement as a Condition of Community Supervision.** The Court ORDERS Defendant confined **180** days in **the County Jail** as a condition of community supervision. The period of confinement as a condition of community supervision starts when Defendant arrives at the designated facility, absent a special order to the contrary.

**Fines Imposed Include (check each fine and enter each amount as pronounced by the court):**

- General Fine (§12.32, 12.33, 12.34, or 12.35, Penal Code, or any other Code) \$ (not to exceed \$10,000)
- Add'l Monthly Fine for Sex Offenders (Art. 42A.653, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ as assessed as a Cond. CS (\$5.00/per month of community supervision)
- Child Abuse Prevention Fine (Art. 102.0186, Code Crim. Proc.) \$100
- EMS, Trauma Fine (Art. 102.0185, Code Crim. Proc.) \$100
- Family Violence Fine (Art. 42A.504 (b), Code Crim. Proc.) \$100
- Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Fine (Art. 102.0171(a), Code Crim. Proc.) \$50
- State Traffic Fine (§ 542.4031, Transp. Code) \$50
- Children's Advocacy Center Fine - as Cond of CS (Art. 42A.455, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ As assessed in Cond of CS (not to exceed \$50)
- Repayment of Reward Fine (Art. 37.073/42.152, Code Crim. Proc.) \$ (To Be Determined by the Court)
- Payment of Fine to Crime Stoppers Organization - as Cond of CS (Art. 42A.301 (b) (19), Code Crim. Proc.) \$ as assessed as a Cond. CS. (not to exceed \$50)
- DWI Traffic Fine (a/k/a Misc. Traffic Fines) (§ 709.001, Transp. Code) \$ (not to exceed \$6,000)

**Execution of Sentence**

The Court ORDERS Defendant's sentence EXECUTED. The Court FINDS that Defendant is entitled to the jail time credit indicated above. The attorney for the state, attorney for the defendant, the County Sheriff, and any other person having or who had custody of Defendant shall assist the clerk, or person responsible for completing this judgment, in calculating Defendant's credit for time served. All supporting documentation, if any, concerning Defendant's credit for time served is incorporated herein by this reference.

Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 112672787 - Page 2 of 8  
For Official Governmental Use Only

**Furthermore, the following special findings or orders apply:**

The Court enters an affirmative finding that the Defendant has been found guilty of a felony. **APPEAL WAIVED, NO PERMISSION TO APPEAL GRANTED.**

**SEE THE ATTACHED FIREARM ADMONISHMENT**

**Fine in Lieu of DL Suspension.**

**DEF TO SERVE 180 DAYS HCJ AS A COP BEG 3/1/24. FAMILY VIOLENCE, TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ART. 42.013**

**THE COURT ENTERS AN AFFIRMATIVE FINDING THAT DEFENDANT'S OFFENSE INVOLVED FAMILY VIOLENCE, AS DEFINED BY SECTION 71.008, FAMILY CODE..**

**Date Judgment Entered: February 7, 2024**

*Andrea Beall*

**ANDREA BEALL**

JUDGE PRESIDING

Clerk: E HALLIGAN

Notice of Appeal Filed: \_

Mandate Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Mandate: \_\_\_\_\_

After Mandate Received, Sentence to Begin Date is: \_\_\_\_\_

Jail Credit: \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS



Thumbprint

For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 112672787 - Page 3 of 8

Case Number: 1798932 Court: 185TH Defendant: **HERRING, MASON WILLIAM**



WRITTEN ADMONITION ON INELIGIBILITY TO POSSESS FIREARM OR  
AMMUNITION

In accordance with Texas Administrative Code §176.1, the Court hereby admonishes you of the following:

1. You are, by entry of order or judgment, ineligible under Texas law to possess a firearm or ammunition.
2. Beginning now, if you possess a firearm or ammunition it could lead to charges against you. If you have questions about how long you will be ineligible to possess a firearm or ammunition, you should consult an attorney.
3. Under Texas Penal Code §46.01(3):
  - a. "Firearm" means any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use
  - b. "Firearm" does not include a firearm that may have, as an integral part, a folding knife blade or other characteristics of weapons made illegal by Penal Code Chapter 46 and that is (1) an antique or curio firearm manufactured before 1899 or (2) a replica of an antique or curio firearm manufactured before 1899 but only if the replica does not use rim fire or center fire ammunition.

The statutes listed below are a starting point for ineligibility to possess a firearm or ammunition. For more information about the laws that make you ineligible to possess a firearm or ammunition, or for more information on how long your ineligibility to possess a firearm or ammunition lasts, the Court recommends you contact an attorney.

- Code of Criminal Procedure Article 17.292 – Magistrate’s Order for Emergency Protection
- Code of Criminal Procedure Article 42.0131 – Notice for Persons Convicted of Misdemeanors Involving Family Violence
- Penal Code §46.02 – Unlawful Carrying Weapons
- Penal Code §46.04 – Unlawful Possession of Firearm
- Penal Code §25.07 – Violation of Certain Court Orders or Conditions of Bond in a Family Violence, Child Abuse or Neglect, Sexual Assault or Abuse, Indecent Assault, Stalking, or Trafficking Case
- Family Code §85.026 – Warning on Protective Order

DATE: 02/07/2024

DEFENDANT: 

CASE NUMBER: 179893201010

DEFENDANT NAME: HERRING, MASON WILLIAM

For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 112672787 - Page 4 of 8

STATE OF TEXAS  
VS.  
MASON WILLIAM HERRING

185TH DISTRICT COURT  
OF  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

---

**CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**

---

On this the 7th day of February, 2024, you are sentenced to 10 years confinement in the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTIONAL DIVISION probated to 10 years community supervision for the FELONY - LEVEL 3 offense of ATT INJ CHILD/ELD/DIS W/INT SBI in accordance with Article 42A, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, in the 185TH DISTRICT COURT of Harris County, Texas, by the Honorable Andrea Beall Judge Presiding. It is the order of this Court that you abide by the following Conditions of Community Supervision:

1. Commit no offense against the laws of this or any other State or of the United States. You are to report any arrests within 24 hours.
2. Not use, possess, or consume any illegal drug or prescription drug not currently prescribed to you by a medical professional. You shall bring all current prescription containers to your Community Supervision Officer. If new medication is prescribed, you must bring the new prescription containers by your next scheduled report date.
3. Report to the Community Supervision Officer as directed for the remainder of the supervision term unless so ordered differently by the Court.
4. Permit a Community Supervision Officer to visit you at your home, place of employment or elsewhere.
5. Work at suitable employment and/or attend school full-time. Present either verification of employment or provide a log of all attempts to secure employment to your Community Supervision Officer as directed. You must notify HCCSCD of any change in your employment status by your next scheduled reporting date.
6. Abide by the rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (hereinafter referred to as HCCSCD).
7. Remain within Harris County, Texas or any counties directly touching Harris County, Texas. You may not travel outside these locations unless you receive prior written permission from the Court through your Community Supervision Officer.
8. Notify HCCSCD by your next report date of any change in residence.
9. Submit a non-diluted, valid, unaltered sample for the purpose of alcohol/drug monitoring at the request of the HCCSCD.
10. Support your dependents as required by law. Provide your Community Supervision Officer with proof that you are in compliance with all court-ordered support of dependents.
11. Not ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition, or attempt to ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition.

For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 112672787 - Page 5 of 8



## CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Defendant Mason William Herring

Cause 179893201010

12. Pay all fees through HCCSCD. All payments MUST be in the form of a Money Order, Cashier's Check or credit card. Online payments may be made with a credit card at PAYCSCD.COM. A \$2.00 transaction fee will be charged by HCCSCD to process each payment.
13. Pay a Supervision Fee at the rate of \$60.00 per month for the duration of your community supervision beginning 02/07/2025 to HCCSCD.
14. Pay a \$12.50 fee for a Client Card by 02/07/2025 to HCCSCD if the client does not have a valid state issued Driver's License or Texas ID Card.
15. Pay a fine of \$.00 and Court Costs at the rate of \$45.00 per month beginning 02/07/2025 to Harris County through HCCSCD. Court grants credit for 0 days served.
16. Pay \$10.00 per month to cover expenses of drug testing beginning 02/07/2025.
17. Report in person to HCCSCD to provide a DNA sample to the Department of Public Safety at the direction of and through HCCSCD for the purpose of creating a DNA Record by 02/07/2025 and pay a fee by this date of \$25.00 unless a sample has already been submitted under other state law.
18. Submit to an assessment through HCCSCD Assessment Unit as directed. Participate and successfully complete any program(s) as indicated by the assessment or until further order of the court.
19. Pay a one-time fee of \$100.00 to HCCSCD for the purpose of screening and assessment.
20. Submit to an evaluation of your Educational skill level by 02/07/2025. If it is determined that you have not attained the average skill of students who have completed the sixth grade in public schools in this State, you shall participate in a program that teaches functionally illiterate persons to read. If you are non-English speaking, you will participate in English as a Second Language (ESL) program, if it is determined there is a need in order for you to meet the state mandate beginning upon referral until successfully discharged or released by further order of the Court.
21. Participate in a domestic violence treatment program, specifically a Batterer Intervention Prevention Program (BIPP), beginning 02/07/2025.
22. Serve 180 DAYS of confinement in the Harris County Jail or otherwise directed by the court beginning 03/01/2024.
23. Not use, consume, or possess alcoholic beverages.
24. Have no contact with CATHERINE PRESSLY HERRING & J.H. in person, in writing, by telephone, via the internet, a third party or any other means for any reason except as specifically permitted by the Court.
25. NO POSSESSION OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION.

**CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**

Defendant Mason William Herring

Cause 179893201010

26. CLIENT SHALL HAVE NO CONTACT W/ CATHERINE PRESSLY HERRING & J.H. OUTSIDE OF FAMILY COURT ORDERS.

**CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**

Defendant Mason William Herring

Cause 179893201010

I understand that under the laws of this State, the Court shall determine the terms and conditions of Community Supervision, and may alter or modify said conditions during the period of Community Supervision. I further understand that failure to abide by these Conditions of Community Supervision may result in the revocation of Community Supervision or an adjudication of guilt.

**Court Directive for Release**

Community Supervision expires on February 6, 2034.



SIGN

Mason William Herring  
Defendant

02/07/2024


Date Signed

Signed this the February 7, 2024.



SIGN

Andrea Beall  
Presiding Judge



\_\_\_\_\_  
eys

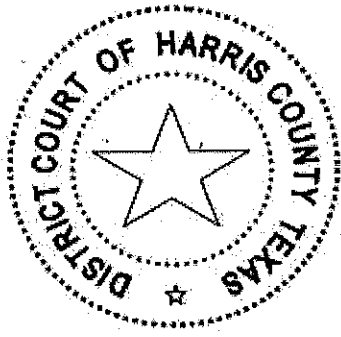
Court Liaison Officer

02/07/2024

Date Signed

SPN 03145091

Plea Guilty



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.  
Witness my official hand and seal of office this February 12, 2024

Certified Document Number: 112672787 Total Pages: 8

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**In accordance with Texas Government Code 51.301 and 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail [support@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:support@hcdistrictclerk.com)**

AFFIDAVIT

THE STATE OF TEXAS    §  
                                  §  
COUNTY OF TRAVIS    §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Amanda M. Kates, Petitioner's attorney of record, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows:

"My name is Amanda M. Kates. I am over the age of 18 years, of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and state the following:


Based upon information and belief, Mason William Herring, whose Texas Bar Card Number is 24071746, is licensed as an attorney and counselor at law in the State of Texas. Based upon information and belief Mason William Herring, named as Respondent in the Petition for Compulsory Discipline filed with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals is one and the same person as the Mason William Herring who is the subject of the following matters:

Judgment of Conviction by Court – Waiver of Jury Trial in Cause No. 177210601010, styled *The State of Texas v. Herring, Mason William*, in the 185<sup>th</sup> District Court of Harris County, Texas;

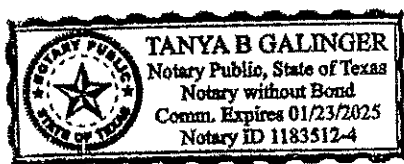
Judgment of Conviction by Court – Waiver of Jury Trial in Cause No. 179893201010, styled *The State of Texas v. Herring, Mason William* in the 185<sup>th</sup> District Court of Harris County, Texas;

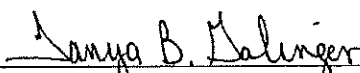
wherein Respondent received 10 years confinement in TDCJ, Correctional Institutions Division, with the Sentence of Confinement Suspended, and was placed on community supervision for 10 Years.

FURTHER Affiant saith not.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda M. Kates

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED before me on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR  
THE STATE OF TEXAS



# INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

## BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

Current through June 21, 2018

### Contents

<b>I. GENERAL PROVISIONS</b>	<b>1</b>
Rule 1.01. Definitions	1
Rule 1.02. General Powers	1
Rule 1.03. Additional Rules in Disciplinary Matters	1
Rule 1.04. Appointment of Panels	1
Rule 1.05. Filing of Pleadings, Motions, and Other Papers	1
Rule 1.06. Service of Petition	2
Rule 1.07. Hearing Setting and Notice	2
Rule 1.08. Time to Answer	2
Rule 1.09. Pretrial Procedure	2
Rule 1.10. Decisions	3
Rule 1.11. Board of Disciplinary Appeals Opinions	3
Rule 1.12. BODA Work Product and Drafts	3
Rule 1.13. Record Retention	3
Rule 1.14. Costs of Reproduction of Records	3
Rule 1.15. Publication of These Rules	3
<b>II. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<b>3</b>
Rule 2.01. Representing or Counseling Parties in Disciplinary Matters and Legal Malpractice Cases	3
Rule 2.02. Confidentiality	4
Rule 2.03. Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members	4
<b>III. CLASSIFICATION APPEALS</b>	<b>4</b>
Rule 3.01. Notice of Right to Appeal	4
Rule 3.02. Record on Appeal	4
<b>IV. APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS</b>	<b>4</b>
Rule 4.01. Perfecting Appeal	4
Rule 4.02. Record on Appeal	5
Rule 4.03. Time to File Record	6
Rule 4.04. Copies of the Record	6
Rule 4.05. Requisites of Briefs	6
Rule 4.06. Oral Argument	7
Rule 4.07. Decision and Judgment	7
Rule 4.08. Appointment of Statewide Grievance Committee	8
Rule 4.09. Involuntary Dismissal	8
<b>V. PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION</b>	<b>8</b>
Rule 5.01. Initiation and Service	8
Rule 5.02. Hearing	8



<b>VI. COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Rule 6.01. Initiation of Proceeding .....	8
Rule 6.02. Interlocutory Suspension.....	8
<b>VII. RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Rule 7.01. Initiation of Proceeding .....	9
Rule 7.02. Order to Show Cause.....	9
Rule 7.03. Attorney’s Response.....	9
<b>VIII. DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Rule 8.01. Appointment of District Disability Committee .....	9
Rule 8.02. Petition and Answer .....	9
Rule 8.03. Discovery .....	9
Rule 8.04. Ability to Compel Attendance .....	10
Rule 8.05. Respondent’s Right to Counsel .....	10
Rule 8.06. Hearing.....	10
Rule 8.07. Notice of Decision.....	10
Rule 8.08. Confidentiality.....	10
<b>IX. DISABILITY REINSTATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Rule 9.01. Petition for Reinstatement .....	10
Rule 9.02. Discovery .....	10
Rule 9.03. Physical or Mental Examinations .....	10
Rule 9.04. Judgment .....	10
<b>X. APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Rule 10.01. Appeals to the Supreme Court.....	11

# INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

## Board of Disciplinary Appeals

*Current through June 21, 2018*

### I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Rule 1.01. Definitions

- (a) "BODA" is the Board of Disciplinary Appeals.
- (b) "Chair" is the member elected by BODA to serve as chair or, in the Chair's absence, the member elected by BODA to serve as vice-chair.
- (c) "Classification" is the determination by the CDC under TRDP 2.10 or by BODA under TRDP 7.08(C) whether a grievance constitutes a "complaint" or an "inquiry."
- (d) "BODA Clerk" is the executive director of BODA or other person appointed by BODA to assume all duties normally performed by the clerk of a court.
- (e) "CDC" is the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State Bar of Texas and his or her assistants.
- (f) "Commission" is the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a permanent committee of the State Bar of Texas.
- (g) "Executive Director" is the executive director of BODA.
- (h) "Panel" is any three-member grouping of BODA under TRDP 7.05.
- (i) "Party" is a Complainant, a Respondent, or the Commission.
- (j) "TDRPC" is the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (k) "TRAP" is the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (l) "TRCP" is the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (m) "TRDP" is the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
- (n) "TRE" is the Texas Rules of Evidence.

#### Rule 1.02. General Powers

Under TRDP 7.08, BODA has and may exercise all the powers of either a trial court or an appellate court, as the case may be, in hearing and determining disciplinary proceedings. But TRDP 15.01 [17.01] applies to the enforcement of a judgment of BODA.

#### Rule 1.03. Additional Rules in Disciplinary Matters

Except as varied by these rules and to the extent applicable, the TRCP, TRAP, and TRE apply to all disciplinary matters before BODA, except for appeals from classification decisions, which are governed by TRDP 2.10 and by Section 3 of these rules.

#### Rule 1.04. Appointment of Panels

- (a) BODA may consider any matter or motion by panel,

except as specified in (b). The Chair may delegate to the Executive Director the duty to appoint a panel for any BODA action. Decisions are made by a majority vote of the panel; however, any panel member may refer a matter for consideration by BODA sitting en banc. Nothing in these rules gives a party the right to be heard by BODA sitting en banc.

- (b) Any disciplinary matter naming a BODA member as Respondent must be considered by BODA sitting en banc. A disciplinary matter naming a BODA staff member as Respondent need not be heard en banc.

#### Rule 1.05. Filing of Pleadings, Motions, and Other Papers

- (a) **Electronic Filing.** All documents must be filed electronically. Unrepresented persons or those without the means to file electronically may electronically file documents, but it is not required.

- (1) **Email Address.** The email address of an attorney or an unrepresented party who electronically files a document must be included on the document.

- (2) **Timely Filing.** Documents are filed electronically by emailing the document to the BODA Clerk at the email address designated by BODA for that purpose. A document filed by email will be considered filed the day that the email is sent. The date sent is the date shown for the message in the inbox of the email account designated for receiving filings. If a document is sent after 5:00 p.m. or on a weekend or holiday officially observed by the State of Texas, it is considered filed the next business day.

- (3) It is the responsibility of the party filing a document by email to obtain the correct email address for BODA and to confirm that the document was received by BODA in legible form. Any document that is illegible or that cannot be opened as part of an email attachment will not be considered filed. If a document is untimely due to a technical failure or a system outage, the filing party may seek appropriate relief from BODA.

- (4) **Exceptions.**

- (i) An appeal to BODA of a decision by the CDC to classify a grievance as an inquiry is not required to be filed electronically.

- (ii) The following documents must not be filed electronically:

- a) documents that are filed under seal or subject to a pending motion to seal; and

- b) documents to which access is otherwise restricted by court order.

- (iii) For good cause, BODA may permit a party to file other documents in paper form in a particular case.

- (5) **Format.** An electronically filed document must:

- (i) be in text-searchable portable document format (PDF);
- (ii) be directly converted to PDF rather than scanned, if possible; and
- (iii) not be locked.

(b) A paper will not be deemed filed if it is sent to an individual BODA member or to another address other than the address designated by BODA under Rule 1.05(a)(2).

(c) **Signing.** Each brief, motion, or other paper filed must be signed by at least one attorney for the party or by the party pro se and must give the State Bar of Texas card number, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and fax number, if any, of each attorney whose name is signed or of the party (if applicable). A document is considered signed if the document includes:

- (1) an “/s/” and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear, unless the document is notarized or sworn; or
- (2) an electronic image or scanned image of the signature.

(d) **Paper Copies.** Unless required by BODA, a party need not file a paper copy of an electronically filed document.

(e) **Service.** Copies of all documents filed by any party other than the record filed by the evidentiary panel clerk or the court reporter must, at or before the time of filing, be served on all other parties as required and authorized by the TRAP.

#### **Rule 1.06. Service of Petition**

In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA initiated by service of a petition on the Respondent, the petition must be served by personal service; by certified mail with return receipt requested; or, if permitted by BODA, in any other manner that is authorized by the TRCP and reasonably calculated under all the circumstances to apprise the Respondent of the proceeding and to give him or her reasonable time to appear and answer. To establish service by certified mail, the return receipt must contain the Respondent’s signature.

#### **Rule 1.07. Hearing Setting and Notice**

(a) **Original Petitions.** In any kind of case initiated by the CDC’s filing a petition or motion with BODA, the CDC may contact the BODA Clerk for the next regularly available hearing date before filing the original petition. If a hearing is set before the petition is filed, the petition must state the date, time, and place of the hearing. Except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23 [2.22], the hearing date must be at least 30 days from the date that the petition is served on the Respondent.

(b) **Expedited Settings.** If a party desires a hearing on a matter on a date earlier than the next regularly available BODA hearing date, the party may request an expedited setting in a written motion setting out the reasons for the

request. Unless the parties agree otherwise, and except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23 [2.22], the expedited hearing setting must be at least 30 days from the date of service of the petition, motion, or other pleading. BODA has the sole discretion to grant or deny a request for an expedited hearing date.

(c) **Setting Notices.** BODA must notify the parties of any hearing date that is not noticed in an original petition or motion.

(d) **Announcement Docket.** Attorneys and parties appearing before BODA must confirm their presence and present any questions regarding procedure to the BODA Clerk in the courtroom immediately prior to the time docket call is scheduled to begin. Each party with a matter on the docket must appear at the docket call to give an announcement of readiness, to give a time estimate for the hearing, and to present any preliminary motions or matters. Immediately following the docket call, the Chair will set and announce the order of cases to be heard.

#### **Rule 1.08. Time to Answer**

The Respondent may file an answer at any time, except where expressly provided otherwise by these rules or the TRDP, or when an answer date has been set by prior order of BODA. BODA may, but is not required to, consider an answer filed the day of the hearing.

#### **Rule 1.09. Pretrial Procedure**

##### **(a) Motions.**

(1) Generally. To request an order or other relief, a party must file a motion supported by sufficient cause with proof of service on all other parties. The motion must state with particularity the grounds on which it is based and set forth the relief sought. All supporting briefs, affidavits, or other documents must be served and filed with the motion. A party may file a response to a motion at any time before BODA rules on the motion or by any deadline set by BODA. Unless otherwise required by these rules or the TRDP, the form of a motion must comply with the TRCP or the TRAP.

(2) For Extension of Time. All motions for extension of time in any matter before BODA must be in writing, comply with (a)(1), and specify the following:

- (i) if applicable, the date of notice of decision of the evidentiary panel, together with the number and style of the case;
- (ii) if an appeal has been perfected, the date when the appeal was perfected;
- (iii) the original deadline for filing the item in question;
- (iv) the length of time requested for the extension;
- (v) the number of extensions of time that have been granted previously regarding the item in question; and

(vi) the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension.

(b) **Pretrial Scheduling Conference.** Any party may request a pretrial scheduling conference, or BODA on its own motion may require a pretrial scheduling conference.

(c) **Trial Briefs.** In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA, except with leave, all trial briefs and memoranda must be filed with the BODA Clerk no later than ten days before the day of the hearing.

(d) **Hearing Exhibits, Witness Lists, and Exhibits Tendered for Argument.** A party may file a witness list, exhibit, or any other document to be used at a hearing or oral argument before the hearing or argument. A party must bring to the hearing an original and 12 copies of any document that was not filed at least one business day before the hearing. The original and copies must be:

- (1) marked;
- (2) indexed with the title or description of the item offered as an exhibit; and
- (3) if voluminous, bound to lie flat when open and tabbed in accordance with the index.

All documents must be marked and provided to the opposing party before the hearing or argument begins.

#### **Rule 1.10. Decisions**

(a) **Notice of Decisions.** The BODA Clerk must give notice of all decisions and opinions to the parties or their attorneys of record.

(b) **Publication of Decisions.** BODA must report judgments or orders of public discipline:

- (1) as required by the TRDP; and
- (2) on its website for a period of at least ten years following the date of the disciplinary judgment or order.

(c) **Abstracts of Classification Appeals.** BODA may, in its discretion, prepare an abstract of a classification appeal for a public reporting service.

#### **Rule 1.11. Board of Disciplinary Appeals Opinions**

(a) BODA may render judgment in any disciplinary matter with or without written opinion. In accordance with TRDP 6.06, all written opinions of BODA are open to the public and must be made available to the public reporting services, print or electronic, for publishing. A majority of the members who participate in considering the disciplinary matter must determine if an opinion will be written. The names of the participating members must be noted on all written opinions of BODA.

(b) Only a BODA member who participated in the decision of a disciplinary matter may file or join in a written opinion concurring in or dissenting from the judgment of BODA. For purposes of this rule, in hearings in which evidence is taken, no member may participate in

the decision unless that member was present at the hearing. In all other proceedings, no member may participate unless that member has reviewed the record. Any member of BODA may file a written opinion in connection with the denial of a hearing or rehearing en banc.

(c) A BODA determination in an appeal from a grievance classification decision under TRDP 2.10 is not a judgment for purposes of this rule and may be issued without a written opinion.

#### **Rule 1.12. BODA Work Product and Drafts**

A document or record of any nature—regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission—that is created or produced in connection with or related to BODA's adjudicative decision-making process is not subject to disclosure or discovery. This includes documents prepared by any BODA member, BODA staff, or any other person acting on behalf of or at the direction of BODA.

#### **Rule 1.13. Record Retention**

Records of appeals from classification decisions must be retained by the BODA Clerk for a period of at least three years from the date of disposition. Records of other disciplinary matters must be retained for a period of at least five years from the date of final judgment, or for at least one year after the date a suspension or disbarment ends, whichever is later. For purposes of this rule, a record is any document, paper, letter, map, book, tape, photograph, film, recording, or other material filed with BODA, regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission.

#### **Rule 1.14. Costs of Reproduction of Records**

The BODA Clerk may charge a reasonable amount for the reproduction of nonconfidential records filed with BODA. The fee must be paid in advance to the BODA Clerk.

#### **Rule 1.15. Publication of These Rules**

These rules will be published as part of the TDRPC and TRDP.

## **II. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Rule 2.01. Representing or Counseling Parties in Disciplinary Matters and Legal Malpractice Cases**

(a) A current member of BODA must not represent a party or testify voluntarily in a disciplinary action or proceeding. Any BODA member who is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to appear at a disciplinary action or proceeding, including at a deposition, must promptly notify the BODA Chair.

(b) A current BODA member must not serve as an expert witness on the TDRPC.

(c) A BODA member may represent a party in a legal malpractice case, provided that he or she is later recused in accordance with these rules from any proceeding before BODA arising out of the same facts.

### **Rule 2.02. Confidentiality**

(a) BODA deliberations are confidential, must not be disclosed by BODA members or staff, and are not subject to disclosure or discovery.

(b) Classification appeals, appeals from evidentiary judgments of private reprimand, appeals from an evidentiary judgment dismissing a case, interlocutory appeals or any interim proceedings from an ongoing evidentiary case, and disability cases are confidential under the TRDP. BODA must maintain all records associated with these cases as confidential, subject to disclosure only as provided in the TRDP and these rules.

(c) If a member of BODA is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled by law to testify in any proceeding, the member must not disclose a matter that was discussed in conference in connection with a disciplinary case unless the member is required to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction

### **Rule 2.03. Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members**

(a) BODA members are subject to disqualification and recusal as provided in TRCP 18b.

(b) BODA members may, in addition to recusals under (a), voluntarily recuse themselves from any discussion and voting for any reason. The reasons that a BODA member is recused from a case are not subject to discovery.

(c) These rules do not disqualify a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the law firm of a BODA member from serving on a grievance committee or representing a party in a disciplinary proceeding or legal malpractice case. But a BODA member must recuse him or herself from any matter in which a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the BODA member's firm is a party or represents a party.

## **III. CLASSIFICATION APPEALS**

### **Rule 3.01. Notice of Right to Appeal**

(a) If a grievance filed by the Complainant under TRDP 2.10 is classified as an inquiry, the CDC must notify the Complainant of his or her right to appeal as set out in TRDP 2.10 or another applicable rule.

(b) To facilitate the potential filing of an appeal of a grievance classified as an inquiry, the CDC must send the Complainant an appeal notice form, approved by BODA, with the classification disposition. The form must include the docket number of the matter; the deadline for appealing; and information for mailing, faxing, or emailing the appeal notice form to BODA. The appeal notice form must be available in English and Spanish.

### **Rule 3.02. Record on Appeal**

BODA must only consider documents that were filed with the CDC prior to the classification decision. When a notice of appeal from a classification decision has been filed, the CDC must forward to BODA a copy of the grievance and

all supporting documentation. If the appeal challenges the classification of an amended grievance, the CDC must also send BODA a copy of the initial grievance, unless it has been destroyed.

## **IV. APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS**

### **Rule 4.01. Perfecting Appeal**

(a) **Appellate Timetable.** The date that the evidentiary judgment is signed starts the appellate timetable under this section. To make TRDP 2.21 [2.20] consistent with this requirement, the date that the judgment is signed is the "date of notice" under Rule 2.21 [2.20].

(b) **Notification of the Evidentiary Judgment.** The clerk of the evidentiary panel must notify the parties of the judgment as set out in TRDP 2.21 [2.20].

(1) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Commission and the Respondent in writing of the judgment. The notice must contain a clear statement that any appeal of the judgment must be filed with BODA within 30 days of the date that the judgment was signed. The notice must include a copy of the judgment rendered.

(2) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant that a judgment has been rendered and provide a copy of the judgment, unless the evidentiary panel dismissed the case or imposed a private reprimand. In the case of a dismissal or private reprimand, the evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant of the decision and that the contents of the judgment are confidential. Under TRDP 2.16, no additional information regarding the contents of a judgment of dismissal or private reprimand may be disclosed to the Complainant.

(c) **Filing Notice of Appeal.** An appeal is perfected when a written notice of appeal is filed with BODA. If a notice of appeal and any other accompanying documents are mistakenly filed with the evidentiary panel clerk, the notice is deemed to have been filed the same day with BODA, and the evidentiary panel clerk must immediately send the BODA Clerk a copy of the notice and any accompanying documents.

(d) **Time to File.** In accordance with TRDP 2.24 [2.23], the notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days after the date the judgment is signed. In the event a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is timely filed with the evidentiary panel, the notice of appeal must be filed with BODA within 90 days from the date the judgment is signed.

(e) **Extension of Time.** A motion for an extension of time to file the notice of appeal must be filed no later than 15 days after the last day allowed for filing the notice of appeal. The motion must comply with Rule 1.09.

#### **Rule 4.02. Record on Appeal**

(a) **Contents.** The record on appeal consists of the evidentiary panel clerk's record and, where necessary to the appeal, a reporter's record of the evidentiary panel hearing.

(b) **Stipulation as to Record.** The parties may designate parts of the clerk's record and the reporter's record to be included in the record on appeal by written stipulation filed with the clerk of the evidentiary panel.

#### **(c) Responsibility for Filing Record.**

##### **(1) Clerk's Record.**

(i) After receiving notice that an appeal has been filed, the clerk of the evidentiary panel is responsible for preparing, certifying, and timely filing the clerk's record.

(ii) Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, the clerk's record on appeal must contain the items listed in TRAP 34.5(a) and any other paper on file with the evidentiary panel, including the election letter, all pleadings on which the hearing was held, the docket sheet, the evidentiary panel's charge, any findings of fact and conclusions of law, all other pleadings, the judgment or other orders appealed from, the notice of decision sent to each party, any postsubmission pleadings and briefs, and the notice of appeal.

(iii) If the clerk of the evidentiary panel is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the clerk's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain why the clerk's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the clerk's record to be filed.

##### **(2) Reporter's Record.**

(i) The court reporter for the evidentiary panel is responsible for timely filing the reporter's record if:

- a) a notice of appeal has been filed;
- b) a party has requested that all or part of the reporter's record be prepared; and
- c) the party requesting all or part of the reporter's record has paid the reporter's fee or has made satisfactory arrangements with the reporter.

(ii) If the court reporter is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the reporter's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain the reasons why the reporter's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the reporter's record to be filed.

#### **(d) Preparation of Clerk's Record.**

(1) To prepare the clerk's record, the evidentiary panel clerk must:

- (i) gather the documents designated by the parties'

written stipulation or, if no stipulation was filed, the documents required under (c)(1)(ii);

(ii) start each document on a new page;

(iii) include the date of filing on each document;

(iv) arrange the documents in chronological order, either by the date of filing or the date of occurrence;

(v) number the pages of the clerk's record in the manner required by (d)(2);

(vi) prepare and include, after the front cover of the clerk's record, a detailed table of contents that complies with (d)(3); and

(vii) certify the clerk's record.

(2) The clerk must start the page numbering on the front cover of the first volume of the clerk's record and continue to number all pages consecutively—including the front and back covers, tables of contents, certification page, and separator pages, if any—until the final page of the clerk's record, without regard for the number of volumes in the clerk's record, and place each page number at the bottom of each page.

(3) The table of contents must:

(i) identify each document in the entire record (including sealed documents); the date each document was filed; and, except for sealed documents, the page on which each document begins;

(ii) be double-spaced;

(iii) conform to the order in which documents appear in the clerk's record, rather than in alphabetical order;

(iv) contain bookmarks linking each description in the table of contents (except for descriptions of sealed documents) to the page on which the document begins; and

(v) if the record consists of multiple volumes, indicate the page on which each volume begins.

(e) **Electronic Filing of the Clerk's Record.** The evidentiary panel clerk must file the record electronically. When filing a clerk's record in electronic form, the evidentiary panel clerk must:

(1) file each computer file in text-searchable Portable Document Format (PDF);

(2) create electronic bookmarks to mark the first page of each document in the clerk's record;

(3) limit the size of each computer file to 100 MB or less, if possible; and

(4) directly convert, rather than scan, the record to PDF, if possible.

(f) **Preparation of the Reporter's Record.**

(1) The appellant, at or before the time prescribed for

perfecting the appeal, must make a written request for the reporter's record to the court reporter for the evidentiary panel. The request must designate the portion of the evidence and other proceedings to be included. A copy of the request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the appellee. The reporter's record must be certified by the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.

(2) The court reporter or recorder must prepare and file the reporter's record in accordance with TRAP 34.6 and 35 and the Uniform Format Manual for Texas Reporters' Records.

(3) The court reporter or recorder must file the reporter's record in an electronic format by emailing the document to the email address designated by BODA for that purpose.

(4) The court reporter or recorder must include either a scanned image of any required signature or "/s/" and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise

(6<sup>1</sup>) In exhibit volumes, the court reporter or recorder must create bookmarks to mark the first page of each exhibit document.

(g) **Other Requests.** At any time before the clerk's record is prepared, or within ten days after service of a copy of appellant's request for the reporter's record, any party may file a written designation requesting that additional exhibits and portions of testimony be included in the record. The request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the other party.

(h) **Inaccuracies or Defects.** If the clerk's record is found to be defective or inaccurate, the BODA Clerk must inform the clerk of the evidentiary panel of the defect or inaccuracy and instruct the clerk to make the correction. Any inaccuracies in the reporter's record may be corrected by agreement of the parties without the court reporter's recertification. Any dispute regarding the reporter's record that the parties are unable to resolve by agreement must be resolved by the evidentiary panel.

(i) **Appeal from Private Reprimand.** Under TRDP 2.16, in an appeal from a judgment of private reprimand, BODA must mark the record as confidential, remove the attorney's name from the case style, and take any other steps necessary to preserve the confidentiality of the private reprimand.

<sup>1</sup> So in original.

#### **Rule 4.03. Time to File Record**

(a) **Timetable.** The clerk's record and reporter's record must be filed within 60 days after the date the judgment is signed. If a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is filed with the evidentiary panel, the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 120 days from the date the original judgment is signed, unless

a modified judgment is signed, in which case the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 60 days of the signing of the modified judgment. Failure to file either the clerk's record or the reporter's record on time does not affect BODA's jurisdiction, but may result in BODA's exercising its discretion to dismiss the appeal, affirm the judgment appealed from, disregard materials filed late, or apply presumptions against the appellant.

#### **(b) If No Record Filed.**

(1) If the clerk's record or reporter's record has not been timely filed, the BODA Clerk must send notice to the party responsible for filing it, stating that the record is late and requesting that the record be filed within 30 days. The BODA Clerk must send a copy of this notice to all the parties and the clerk of the evidentiary panel.

(2) If no reporter's record is filed due to appellant's fault, and if the clerk's record has been filed, BODA may, after first giving the appellant notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure, consider and decide those issues or points that do not require a reporter's record for a decision. BODA may do this if no reporter's record has been filed because:

(i) the appellant failed to request a reporter's record; or

(ii) the appellant failed to pay or make arrangements to pay the reporter's fee to prepare the reporter's record, and the appellant is not entitled to proceed without payment of costs.

(c) **Extension of Time to File the Reporter's Record.** When an extension of time is requested for filing the reporter's record, the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension must be supported by an affidavit of the court reporter. The affidavit must include the court reporter's estimate of the earliest date when the reporter's record will be available for filing.

(d) **Supplemental Record.** If anything material to either party is omitted from the clerk's record or reporter's record, BODA may, on written motion of a party or on its own motion, direct a supplemental record to be certified and transmitted by the clerk for the evidentiary panel or the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.

#### **Rule 4.04. Copies of the Record**

The record may not be withdrawn from the custody of the BODA Clerk. Any party may obtain a copy of the record or any designated part thereof by making a written request to the BODA Clerk and paying any charges for reproduction in advance.

#### **Rule 4.05. Requisites of Briefs**

(a) **Appellant's Filing Date.** Appellant's brief must be filed within 30 days after the clerk's record or the reporter's record is filed, whichever is later.

(b) **Appellee's Filing Date.** Appellee's brief must be filed

within 30 days after the appellant's brief is filed.

(c) **Contents.** Briefs must contain:

- (1) a complete list of the names and addresses of all parties to the final decision and their counsel;
- (2) a table of contents indicating the subject matter of each issue or point, or group of issues or points, with page references where the discussion of each point relied on may be found;
- (3) an index of authorities arranged alphabetically and indicating the pages where the authorities are cited;
- (4) a statement of the case containing a brief general statement of the nature of the cause or offense and the result;
- (5) a statement, without argument, of the basis of BODA's jurisdiction;
- (6) a statement of the issues presented for review or points of error on which the appeal is predicated;
- (7) a statement of facts that is without argument, is supported by record references, and details the facts relating to the issues or points relied on in the appeal;
- (8) the argument and authorities;
- (9) conclusion and prayer for relief;
- (10) a certificate of service; and
- (11) an appendix of record excerpts pertinent to the issues presented for review.

(d) **Length of Briefs; Contents Included and Excluded.**

In calculating the length of a document, every word and every part of the document, including headings, footnotes, and quotations, must be counted except the following: caption, identity of the parties and counsel, statement regarding oral argument, table of contents, index of authorities, statement of the case, statement of issues presented, statement of the jurisdiction, signature, proof of service, certificate of compliance, and appendix. Briefs must not exceed 15,000 words if computer-generated, and 50 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A reply brief must not exceed 7,500 words if computer-generated, and 25 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A computer generated document must include a certificate by counsel or the unrepresented party stating the number of words in the document. The person who signs the certification may rely on the word count of the computer program used to prepare the document.

(e) **Amendment or Supplementation.** BODA has discretion to grant leave to amend or supplement briefs.

(f) **Failure of the Appellant to File a Brief.** If the appellant fails to timely file a brief, BODA may:

- (1) dismiss the appeal for want of prosecution, unless the appellant reasonably explains the failure, and the appellee is not significantly injured by the appellant's

failure to timely file a brief;

(2) decline to dismiss the appeal and make further orders within its discretion as it considers proper; or

(3) if an appellee's brief is filed, regard that brief as correctly presenting the case and affirm the evidentiary panel's judgment on that brief without examining the record.

**Rule 4.06. Oral Argument**

(a) **Request.** A party desiring oral argument must note the request on the front cover of the party's brief. A party's failure to timely request oral argument waives the party's right to argue. A party who has requested argument may later withdraw the request. But even if a party has waived oral argument, BODA may direct the party to appear and argue. If oral argument is granted, the clerk will notify the parties of the time and place for submission.

(b) **Right to Oral Argument.** A party who has filed a brief and who has timely requested oral argument may argue the case to BODA unless BODA, after examining the briefs, decides that oral argument is unnecessary for any of the following reasons:

- (1) the appeal is frivolous;
- (2) the dispositive issue or issues have been authoritatively decided;
- (3) the facts and legal arguments are adequately presented in the briefs and record; or
- (4) the decisional process would not be significantly aided by oral argument.

(c) **Time Allowed.** Each party will have 20 minutes to argue. BODA may, on the request of a party or on its own, extend or shorten the time allowed for oral argument. The appellant may reserve a portion of his or her allotted time for rebuttal.

**Rule 4.07. Decision and Judgment**

(a) **Decision.** BODA may do any of the following:

- (1) affirm in whole or in part the decision of the evidentiary panel;
- (2) modify the panel's findings and affirm the findings as modified;
- (3) reverse in whole or in part the panel's findings and render the decision that the panel should have rendered; or
- (4) reverse the panel's findings and remand the cause for further proceedings to be conducted by:
  - (i) the panel that entered the findings; or
  - (ii) a statewide grievance committee panel appointed by BODA and composed of members selected from the state bar districts other than the district from which the appeal was taken.



(b) **Mandate.** In every appeal, the BODA Clerk must issue a mandate in accordance with BODA's judgment and send it to the evidentiary panel and to all the parties.

#### **Rule 4.08. Appointment of Statewide Grievance Committee**

If BODA remands a cause for further proceedings before a statewide grievance committee, the BODA Chair will appoint the statewide grievance committee in accordance with TRDP 2.27 [2.26]. The committee must consist of six members: four attorney members and two public members randomly selected from the current pool of grievance committee members. Two alternates, consisting of one attorney and one public member, must also be selected. BODA will appoint the initial chair who will serve until the members of the statewide grievance committee elect a chair of the committee at the first meeting. The BODA Clerk will notify the Respondent and the CDC that a committee has been appointed.

#### **Rule 4.09. Involuntary Dismissal**

Under the following circumstances and on any party's motion or on its own initiative after giving at least ten days' notice to all parties, BODA may dismiss the appeal or affirm the appealed judgment or order. Dismissal or affirmance may occur if the appeal is subject to dismissal:

- (a) for want of jurisdiction;
- (b) for want of prosecution; or
- (c) because the appellant has failed to comply with a requirement of these rules, a court order, or a notice from the clerk requiring a response or other action within a specified time.

### **V. PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION**

#### **Rule 5.01. Initiation and Service**

(a) Before filing a motion to revoke the probation of an attorney who has been sanctioned, the CDC must contact the BODA Clerk to confirm whether the next regularly available hearing date will comply with the 30-day requirement of TRDP. The Chair may designate a three-member panel to hear the motion, if necessary, to meet the 30-day requirement of TRDP 2.23 [2.22].

(b) Upon filing the motion, the CDC must serve the Respondent with the motion and any supporting documents in accordance with TRDP 2.23 [2.22], the TRCP, and these rules. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained on the Respondent.

#### **Rule 5.02. Hearing**

Within 30 days of service of the motion on the Respondent, BODA must docket and set the matter for a hearing and notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. On a showing of good cause by a party or on its own motion, BODA may continue the case to a future hearing date as circumstances require.

### **VI. COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE**

#### **Rule 6.01. Initiation of Proceeding**

Under TRDP 8.03, the CDC must file a petition for compulsory discipline with BODA and serve the Respondent in accordance with the TRDP and Rule 1.06 of these rules.

#### **Rule 6.02. Interlocutory Suspension**

(a) **Interlocutory Suspension.** In any compulsory proceeding under TRDP Part VIII in which BODA determines that the Respondent has been convicted of an Intentional Crime and that the criminal conviction is on direct appeal, BODA must suspend the Respondent's license to practice law by interlocutory order. In any compulsory case in which BODA has imposed an interlocutory order of suspension, BODA retains jurisdiction to render final judgment after the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final. For purposes of rendering final judgment in a compulsory discipline case, the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final when the appellate court issues its mandate.

(b) **Criminal Conviction Affirmed.** If the criminal conviction made the basis of a compulsory interlocutory suspension is affirmed and becomes final, the CDC must file a motion for final judgment that complies with TRDP 8.05.

(1) If the criminal sentence is fully probated or is an order of deferred adjudication, the motion for final judgment must contain notice of a hearing date. The motion will be set on BODA's next available hearing date.

(2) If the criminal sentence is not fully probated:

(i) BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing if the attorney does not file a verified denial within ten days of service of the motion; or

(ii) BODA may set the motion for a hearing on the next available hearing date if the attorney timely files a verified denial.

(c) **Criminal Conviction Reversed.** If an appellate court issues a mandate reversing the criminal conviction while a Respondent is subject to an interlocutory suspension, the Respondent may file a motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension. The motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension must have certified copies of the decision and mandate of the reversing court attached. If the CDC does not file an opposition to the termination within ten days of being served with the motion, BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing or set the matter for a hearing on its own motion. If the CDC timely opposes the motion, BODA must set the motion for a hearing on its next available hearing date. An order terminating an interlocutory order of suspension does not automatically reinstate a Respondent's license.

## VII. RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

### Rule 7.01. Initiation of Proceeding

To initiate an action for reciprocal discipline under TRDP Part IX, the CDC must file a petition with BODA and request an Order to Show Cause. The petition must request that the Respondent be disciplined in Texas and have attached to it any information concerning the disciplinary matter from the other jurisdiction, including a certified copy of the order or judgment rendered against the Respondent.

### Rule 7.02. Order to Show Cause

When a petition is filed, the Chair immediately issues a show cause order and a hearing notice and forwards them to the CDC, who must serve the order and notice on the Respondent. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained.

### Rule 7.03. Attorney's Response

If the Respondent does not file an answer within 30 days of being served with the order and notice but thereafter appears at the hearing, BODA may, at the discretion of the Chair, receive testimony from the Respondent relating to the merits of the petition.

## VIII. DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS

### Rule 8.01. Appointment of District Disability Committee

(a) If the evidentiary panel of the grievance committee finds under TRDP 2.17(P)(2), or the CDC reasonably believes under TRDP 2.14(C), that a Respondent is suffering from a disability, the rules in this section will apply to the de novo proceeding before the District Disability Committee held under TRDP Part XII.

(b) Upon receiving an evidentiary panel's finding or the CDC's referral that an attorney is believed to be suffering from a disability, the BODA Chair must appoint a District Disability Committee in compliance with TRDP 12.02 and designate a chair. BODA will reimburse District Disability Committee members for reasonable expenses directly related to service on the District Disability Committee. The BODA Clerk must notify the CDC and the Respondent that a committee has been appointed and notify the Respondent where to locate the procedural rules governing disability proceedings.

(c) A Respondent who has been notified that a disability referral will be or has been made to BODA may, at any time, waive in writing the appointment of the District Disability Committee or the hearing before the District Disability Committee and enter into an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension, provided that the Respondent is competent to waive the hearing. If the Respondent is not represented, the waiver must include a statement affirming that the Respondent has been advised of the right to appointed counsel and waives that right as well.

(d) All pleadings, motions, briefs, or other matters to be filed with the District Disability Committee must be filed with the BODA Clerk.

(e) Should any member of the District Disability Committee become unable to serve, the BODA Chair must appoint a substitute member.

### Rule 8.02. Petition and Answer

(a) **Petition.** Upon being notified that the District Disability Committee has been appointed by BODA, the CDC must, within 20 days, file with the BODA Clerk and serve on the Respondent a copy of a petition for indefinite disability suspension. Service must comply with Rule 1.06.

(b) **Answer.** The Respondent must, within 30 days after service of the petition for indefinite disability suspension, file an answer with the BODA Clerk and serve a copy of the answer on the CDC.

(c) **Hearing Setting.** The BODA Clerk must set the final hearing as instructed by the chair of the District Disability Committee and send notice of the hearing to the parties.

### Rule 8.03. Discovery

(a) **Limited Discovery.** The District Disability Committee may permit limited discovery. The party seeking discovery must file with the BODA Clerk a written request that makes a clear showing of good cause and substantial need and a proposed order. If the District Disability Committee authorizes discovery in a case, it must issue a written order. The order may impose limitations or deadlines on the discovery.

(b) **Physical or Mental Examinations.** On written motion by the Commission or on its own motion, the District Disability Committee may order the Respondent to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. Nothing in this rule limits the Respondent's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by the District Disability Committee.

(1) **Motion.** The Respondent must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.

(2) **Report.** The examining professional must file with the BODA Clerk a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the CDC and the Respondent.

(c) **Objections.** A party must make any objection to a request for discovery within 15 days of receiving the motion by filing a written objection with the BODA Clerk. BODA may decide any objection or contest to a discovery motion.

#### **Rule 8.04. Ability to Compel Attendance**

The Respondent and the CDC may confront and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. Compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses by subpoena, enforceable by an order of a district court of proper jurisdiction, is available to the Respondent and the CDC as provided in TRCP 176.

#### **Rule 8.05. Respondent's Right to Counsel**

(a) The notice to the Respondent that a District Disability Committee has been appointed and the petition for indefinite disability suspension must state that the Respondent may request appointment of counsel by BODA to represent him or her at the disability hearing. BODA will reimburse appointed counsel for reasonable expenses directly related to representation of the Respondent.

(b) To receive appointed counsel under TRDP 12.02, the Respondent must file a written request with the BODA Clerk within 30 days of the date that Respondent is served with the petition for indefinite disability suspension. A late request must demonstrate good cause for the Respondent's failure to file a timely request.

#### **Rule 8.06. Hearing**

The party seeking to establish the disability must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Respondent is suffering from a disability as defined in the TRDP. The chair of the District Disability Committee must admit all relevant evidence that is necessary for a fair and complete hearing. The TRE are advisory but not binding on the chair.

#### **Rule 8.07. Notice of Decision**

The District Disability Committee must certify its finding regarding disability to BODA, which will issue the final judgment in the matter.

#### **Rule 8.08. Confidentiality**

All proceedings before the District Disability Committee and BODA, if necessary, are closed to the public. All matters before the District Disability Committee are confidential and are not subject to disclosure or discovery, except as allowed by the TRDP or as may be required in the event of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Texas.

### **IX. DISABILITY REINSTATEMENTS**

#### **Rule 9.01. Petition for Reinstatement**

(a) An attorney under an indefinite disability suspension may, at any time after he or she has been suspended, file a verified petition with BODA to have the suspension terminated and to be reinstated to the practice of law. The petitioner must serve a copy of the petition on the CDC in the manner required by TRDP 12.06. The TRCP apply to a reinstatement proceeding unless they conflict with these rules.

(b) The petition must include the information required by TRDP 12.06. If the judgment of disability suspension

contained terms or conditions relating to misconduct by the petitioner prior to the suspension, the petition must affirmatively demonstrate that those terms have been complied with or explain why they have not been satisfied. The petitioner has a duty to amend and keep current all information in the petition until the final hearing on the merits. Failure to do so may result in dismissal without notice.

(c) Disability reinstatement proceedings before BODA are not confidential; however, BODA may make all or any part of the record of the proceeding confidential.

#### **Rule 9.02. Discovery**

The discovery period is 60 days from the date that the petition for reinstatement is filed. The BODA Clerk will set the petition for a hearing on the first date available after the close of the discovery period and must notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. BODA may continue the hearing for good cause shown.

#### **Rule 9.03. Physical or Mental Examinations**

(a) On written motion by the Commission or on its own, BODA may order the petitioner seeking reinstatement to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. The petitioner must be served with a copy of the motion and given at least seven days to respond. BODA may hold a hearing before ruling on the motion but is not required to do so.

(b) The petitioner must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.

(c) The examining professional must file a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the parties.

(d) If the petitioner fails to submit to an examination as ordered, BODA may dismiss the petition without notice.

(e) Nothing in this rule limits the petitioner's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by BODA.

#### **Rule 9.04. Judgment**

If, after hearing all the evidence, BODA determines that the petitioner is not eligible for reinstatement, BODA may, in its discretion, either enter an order denying the petition or direct that the petition be held in abeyance for a reasonable period of time until the petitioner provides additional proof as directed by BODA. The judgment may include other orders necessary to protect the public and the petitioner's potential clients.

**X. APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS.**

**Rule 10.01. Appeals to the Supreme Court**

(a) A final decision by BODA, except a determination that a statement constitutes an inquiry or a complaint under TRDP 2.10, may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Texas. The clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas must docket an appeal from a decision by BODA in the same manner as a petition for review without fee.

(b) The appealing party must file the notice of appeal directly with the clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas within 14 days of receiving notice of a final determination by BODA. The record must be filed within 60 days after BODA's determination. The appealing party's brief is due 30 days after the record is filed, and the responding party's brief is due 30 days thereafter. The BODA Clerk must send the parties a notice of BODA's final decision that includes the information in this paragraph.

(c) An appeal to the Supreme Court is governed by TRDP 7.11 and the TRAP.