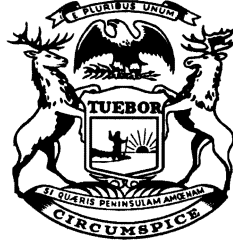


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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION AND RESTITUTION WITH CONDITION

Case No. 17-95-GA

Notice Issued: May 22, 2018

Ronald Thomas Bruce, Jr., P 62579, Monroe, Michigan, by the Attorney Discipline Board Tri-County Hearing Panel #24.

Suspension - 180 Days, Effective January 23, 2018¹

As alleged in the four-count formal complaint, the panel found that respondent committed professional misconduct during his handling of a decedent's estate matter in Monroe County; a pending divorce matter; an objection to a referee's recommendation regarding parenting time; and by failing to timely answer three Requests for Investigation.

Specifically, the panel found that respondent neglected a legal matter entrusted to him, in violation of MRPC 1.1(c); failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, in violation of MRPC 1.3; failed to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter, in violation of MRPC 1.4(a); failed to explain a matter to a client to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.4(b); failed to communicate to the client the basis or rate of the attorney fee before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation, in violation of MRPC 1.5(b); engaged in the representation of a client notwithstanding having been discharged, in violation of MRPC 1.16(a)(3); upon termination of the representation of the client, failed to refund the unearned advance payment for attorney fees and costs and to return and/or turnover to the client, papers to which he was entitled, in violation of MRPC 1.16(d); knowingly failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority, in violation of MRPC 8.1(a)(2); and failed to answer a Request for Investigation in conformity with MCR 9.113(A), in violation of MCR 9.104(7). Respondent was also found to have violated MCR 9.104(1)-(4) and MRPC 8.4(a).

The panel ordered that respondent's license to practice law in Michigan be suspended for a period of 180 days, that he be required to pay restitution totaling \$1,500.00, and that he be subject to a condition relevant to the established misconduct. Costs were assessed in the amount of \$2,576.09.

Mark A. Armitage
Executive Director

¹ Respondent has been continuously suspended from the practice of law in Michigan since June 30, 2017. See Notice of Suspension and Restitution With Condition, *Grievance Administrator v Ronald Thomas Bruce, Jr.*, Case No. 16-101-GA, issued February 23, 2018.