

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE SIXTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

IN THE MATTER OF
JOHN E. HAMILTON, JR.

VSb Docket No. 26-060-136962

SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
(PUBLIC REPRIMAND)

On December 9, 2025 and December 17, 2025, meetings were held in this matter before a duly convened Sixth District Subcommittee consisting of Jane S. Chambers, Esquire, Subcommittee Chair; John Tarley, Jr., Esquire, Member; and TiJuana A. Gholson, Lay Member. During the meeting, the Subcommittee voted to approve an Agreed Disposition for a Public Reprimand pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.B.4. of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Agreed Disposition was entered into by the Virginia State Bar by Joseph M. Caturano, Jr., Assistant Bar Counsel and John E. Hamilton, Jr. ("Respondent").

WHEREFORE, the Sixth District Subcommittee of the Virginia State Bar hereby serves upon Respondent the following Public Reprimand:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent was admitted to the Virginia State Bar ("VSB") in 1973. At all times referenced herein, Respondent has been licensed.
2. On August 14, 2025, Joseph A. Doll ("Mr. Doll") was arrested upon three (3) serious criminal charges ("criminal charges") and confined in jail in Westmoreland County.
3. Also on August 14, 2025, the Westmoreland County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court ("Court") appointed Respondent to represent Mr. Doll upon the criminal charges. (JA 007606-01; -02; -03).
4. On August 18, 2025, the Clerk of Court sent email correspondence to Respondent attaching a copy of the Order of Appointment of August 14, 2025, and a copy of the court file on the criminal charges.

5. On August 19, 2025, the Clerk of Court sent email correspondence to Respondent inquiring if Respondent wanted to set a motion for bond on the docket the following day, August 20, 2025, and if so, to let the Clerk know so Mr. Doll could be brought to Court from jail.

6. Respondent did not file a motion for bond, or any other motion on behalf of Mr. Doll with the Court.

7. After Mr. Doll learned from his spouse, Brandi Doll (“Ms. Doll”) that Respondent was court-appointed to represent Mr. Doll on the criminal charges, Mr. Doll attempted to communicate with Respondent, but Respondent never responded to Mr. Doll’s messages.

8. On September 15, 2025, Respondent communicated with Ms. Doll. Ms. Doll informed Respondent that Mr. Doll needed to speak with Respondent as soon as possible about the criminal charges. Despite the request, Respondent did not communicate with Mr. Doll.

9. On September 22, 2025, the Clerk of Court sent email correspondence to Respondent that Ms. Doll had contacted the Clerk’s Office because Respondent had not communicated with Mr. Doll, had not visited Mr. Doll in jail, and that Mr. Doll needed a different attorney to be appointed by the Court.

10. Also on September 22, 2025, Ms. Doll filed a bar complaint with the VSB against Respondent upon his failure to communicate with Mr. Doll and upon Respondent’s failure to diligently represent Mr. Doll.

11. On September 24-25, 2025, Respondent exchanged text messages with Ms. Doll. Ms. Doll asked Respondent, again, if anything could be done to release Mr. Doll from jail and again requested that Respondent communicate with Mr. Doll. Despite the requests, Respondent did not communicate with Mr. Doll.

12. On September 29, 2025, Respondent filed a response to the bar complaint. Respondent did not deny his failure to communicate with Mr. Doll and concluded with a request to be removed from Mr. Doll’s case.

13. On October 15, 2025, the Court entered an order that appointed substituted counsel for Mr. Doll, removing Respondent from the case.

14. During the representation (August 18, 2025, through October 15, 2025), Respondent did not visit Mr. Doll in jail nor communicate with Mr. Doll.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

Such conduct by Respondent constitutes misconduct in violation of the following provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct:

Rule 1.3 Diligence

- a. A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

By failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing Mr. Doll, specifically, by failing to promptly meet, discuss and analyze the facts with Mr. Doll on the criminal charges, by failing to promptly meet, discuss and analyze the filing of a motion for bond or other motion(s) with Mr. Doll, and by failing to return all of Mr. Doll's messages when on notice from Ms. Doll that Mr. Doll needed to discuss the criminal charges with Respondent as soon as possible, over the course of approximately two (2) months, Respondent violated RPC 1.3(a).

Rule 1.4 Communication

- a. A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

By failing to keep Mr. Doll reasonably informed about the status of the criminal case by not communicating with Mr. Doll, and by failing to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information from Mr. Doll, by not returning any of Mr. Doll's messages, and the messages conveyed by Ms. Doll to Respondent, over the course of approximately two (2) months, Respondent violated RPC 1.4(a).

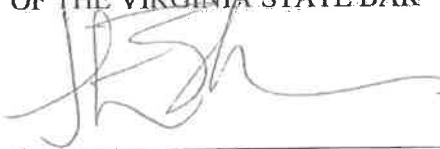
III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Accordingly, it is the decision of the Subcommittee to impose a Public Reprimand, and

John E. Hamilton, Jr. is so Reprimanded.

Pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-9.E. of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

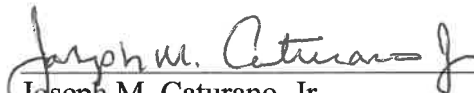
SIXTH DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR



Jane S. Chambers, Esquire
Subcommittee Chair

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that on the 18th day of December 2025, a true and complete copy of the Subcommittee Determination (Public Reprimand) was sent by certified mail to John E. Hamilton, Jr., 198 Crowder Pt Drive, Reedville, Virginia 22539, Respondent's last address of record with the Virginia State Bar and by email to johnehamiltonpc@gmail.com.



Joseph M. Caturano, Jr.
Assistant Bar Counsel