



VIRGINIA:

**BEFORE THE FIRST DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR**

**IN THE MATTER OF
Christopher Paul Reagan**

VS B Docket No. 20-010-119132

**SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINATION
(PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH TERMS)**

On February 11, 2021 a meeting was held in this matter before a duly convened First District Subcommittee consisting of, Veronica E. Meade, Chair, Steven F. Shames, Member, and Walter P. Nullet, Lay Member. During the meeting, the Subcommittee voted to approve an agreed disposition for a PUBLIC Reprimand with Terms 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 Prescott L. Prince, Assistant Bar Counsel, and Christopher Paul Reagan, Respondent, *pro se*.

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

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Christopher Paul Reagan, (“Respondent”) has been an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. Respondent was appointed by the Newport News Circuit Court to represent the complainant, Dustin A. Ele, Sr. (“Ele”) on charges that included aggravated sexual battery and multiple charges of child pornography in Newport News Circuit Court.

3. Respondent pled guilty to the aggravated sexual battery charge and a number of the possession of child pornography charges. Respondent pled not guilty to the remaining charges and, after a trial, was found guilty of the charges and awarded a total of 95 years in confinement. Respondent was appointed to represent Ele on appeal.

4. Respondent represented Ele on his appeal to the Virginia Court of Appeals, including arguing the matter to a three-judge panel. The Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal on 16 July 2019.

5. Respondent asserts that, on or about 16 July 2019 (but before he was aware of the dismissal of the appeal), he was informed by Ele's mother that Ele was dissatisfied with Respondent's representation of Ele and that the family intended to hire substitute counsel.

6. Respondent did not communicate with Ele to confirm whether Ele desired substitute counsel. He also failed to inform Ele that the Court of Appeals had dismissed the Petition for Appeal.

7. Respondent did not file a Notice of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

8. Ele's family subsequently retained substitute counsel. Thereafter, at the request of substitute counsel, Respondent provided the substitute counsel with documents requested by him to complete the filing of a later appeal, including an affidavit in which he acknowledged his failure to note an appeal to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

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

RULE 1.2 Scope of Representation

- (a) A lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives of representation, subject to paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), and shall consult with the client as to the means by

which they are to be pursued. A lawyer shall abide by a client's decision, after consultation with the lawyer, whether to accept an offer of settlement of a matter. In a criminal case, the lawyer shall abide by the client's decision, after consultation with the lawyer, as to a plea to be entered, whether to waive jury trial and whether the client will testify.

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.
- (b) A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

III. PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH TERMS

Accordingly, having approved the agreed disposition, it is the decision of the Subcommittee to impose a PUBLIC Reprimand with Terms. The terms are:

Respondent shall enroll and attend six (6) hours of continuing legal education (CLE) in the substantive area of appeals and appellate procedure, which hours shall not be credited toward Respondent's compliance with his annual mandatory CLE requirement. Upon completion of this Term, Respondent shall so certify in writing to the Assistant Bar Counsel assigned to this case.

If the above term is not met within one year of the date that this Agreed Disposition is approved by the subcommittee, pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.F of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the District Committee shall hold a hearing and Respondent shall be required to show cause why the alternate term of CERTIFICATION OF THIS MATTER TO THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD should not be imposed. Any proceeding initiated due to failure to comply with terms will be considered a new matter, and an administrative fee and costs will be assessed.

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.

FIRST DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR



Veronica E. Meade
Subcommittee Chair

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that on 6 May 2021, a true and complete copy of the Subcommittee Determination (Public Reprimand With Terms) was sent by certified mail to Christopher Paul Reagan, Respondent, at Christopher P. Reagan, P.C., 741 J. Clyde Morris Blvd., Newport News, VA 23601, that being Respondent's last address of record with the Virginia State Bar.



Prescott L. Prince
Assistant Bar Counsel

VIRGINIA:

**BEFORE THE FIRST DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR**

**IN THE MATTER OF
CHRISTOPHER PAUL REAGAN**

VSB Docket No. 20-010-119132

**AGREED DISPOSITION
PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH TERMS**

Pursuant to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.B.4, the Virginia State Bar, by Prescott L. Prince, Assistant Bar Counsel, and Christopher Paul Reagan, Respondent, *pro se*, hereby enter into the following agreed disposition arising out of the referenced matter.

I. STIPULATIONS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Christopher Paul Reagan, (“Respondent”) has been an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia;

2. Respondent was appointed by the Newport News Circuit Court to represent the complainant, Dustin A. Ele, Sr. (“Ele”) on charges that included aggravated sexual battery and multiple charges of child pornography in Newport News Circuit Court.

3. Respondent pled guilty to the aggravated sexual battery charge and a number of the possession of child pornography charges. Respondent pled not guilty to the remaining charges and, after a trial, was found guilty of the charges and awarded a total of 95 years in confinement. Respondent was appointed to represent Ele on appeal.

4. Respondent represented Ele on his appeal to the Virginia Court of Appeals, including arguing the matter to a three-judge panel. The Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal on 16 July 2019.

5. Respondent asserts that, on or about 16 July 2019 (but before he was aware of the dismissal of the appeal), he was informed by Ele's mother that Ele was dissatisfied with Respondent's representation of Ele and that the family intended to hire substitute counsel.

6. Respondent did not communicate with Ele to confirm whether Ele desired substitute counsel. He also failed to inform Ele that the Court of Appeals had dismissed the Petition for Appeal.

7. Respondent did not file a Notice of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

8. Ele's family subsequently retained substitute counsel. Thereafter, at the request of substitute counsel, Respondent provided the substitute counsel with documents requested by him to complete the filing of a later appeal, including an affidavit in which he acknowledged his failure to note an appeal to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

II. NATURE OF MISCONDUCT

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

RULE 1.2 Scope of Representation

- (a) A lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives of representation, subject to paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), and shall consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued. A lawyer shall abide by a client's decision, after consultation with the lawyer, whether to accept an offer of settlement of a matter. In a criminal case, the lawyer shall abide by the client's decision, after consultation with the lawyer, as to a plea to be entered, whether to waive jury trial and whether the client will testify.

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.
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- (b) A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

III. PROPOSED DISPOSITION

Accordingly, Assistant Bar Counsel and Respondent tender to a subcommittee of the First District Committee for its approval the agreed disposition of a PUBLIC REPRIMAND WITH TERMS as representing an appropriate sanction if this matter were to be heard through an evidentiary hearing by the First District Committee. The terms shall be met within one year of the date that this Agreed Disposition is approved by the subcommittee:

Respondent shall enroll and attend six (6) hours of continuing legal education (CLE) in the substantive area of appeals and appellate procedure, which hours shall not be credited toward Respondent's compliance with his annual mandatory CLE requirement. Upon completion of this Term, Respondent shall so certify in writing to the Assistant Bar Counsel assigned to this case.

If the above term is not met within one year of the date that this Agreed Disposition is approved by the subcommittee, Respondent agrees that the District Committee shall certify this matter to the Disciplinary Board pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-15.F of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Any proceeding initiated due to failure to comply with terms will be considered a new matter, and an administrative fee and costs will be assessed pursuant to ¶ 13-9.E of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

If the agreed disposition is approved, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs.

Pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-30.B of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia,
Respondent's prior disciplinary record shall be furnished to the subcommittee considering this
agreed disposition.

THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR



Prescott L. Prince
Assistant Bar Counsel



Christopher Paul Reagan, Esquire
Respondent