

FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

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In Re Petition for Disciplinary  
Action against GEORGE C. RIGGS,  
a Minnesota Attorney,  
Registration No. 127681.  
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**STIPULATION  
FOR DISCIPLINE**

THIS STIPULATION is entered into by and between Kenneth L. Jorgensen, Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, hereinafter Director, and George C. Riggs, attorney, hereinafter respondent.

WHEREAS, respondent has concluded it is in respondent's best interest to enter into this stipulation,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the undersigned as follows:

1. Pursuant to the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR), the parties agree to dispense with further proceedings under Rule 14, RLPR, and respondent agrees to the immediate disposition of this matter by the Minnesota Supreme Court under Rule 15, RLPR.

2. Respondent understands this stipulation, when filed, will be of public record.

3. It is understood that respondent has certain rights pursuant to Rule 14, RLPR. Respondent waives these rights, which include the right to a hearing before a referee on the petition; to have the referee make findings and conclusions and a recommended disposition; to contest such findings and conclusions; and to a hearing before the Supreme Court upon the record, briefs and arguments. Respondent hereby admits service of the petition.

4. Respondent waives the right to answer and admits unconditionally the allegations of the petition.

5. Respondent understands that based upon these admissions, this Court may impose any of the sanctions set forth in Rule 15(a)(1) - (9), RLPR, including making any disposition it deems appropriate. Respondent understands that by entering into this stipulation, the Director is not making any representations as to the sanctions the Court will impose.

6. The Director and respondent recognize that respondent's conduct in signing a client's name to an affidavit and then notarizing the client's purported signature by using respondent's notary stamp is the type of conduct that in other attorney disciplinary matters has resulted in similar or greater discipline. The Director also recognizes, however, that while respondent's method in executing the affidavit was dishonest, the signing and notarizing of the client's name do not appear to have been motivated by a desire to defraud. The content of the affidavit was accurate. Respondent discussed the affidavit with the client before respondent signed the client's name and immediately admitted his conduct when asked about it during a court hearing. These facts make this matter analogous to *In re Meyer*, 601 N.W.2d 706 (Minn. 1999), and distinguish this case from those in which the attorney used an improper method to achieve an improper objective or submitted an affidavit which contained inaccurate information.

7. The Director and respondent join in recommending that the appropriate discipline pursuant to Rule 15, RLPR, is:

- a. Suspension from the practice of law for 30 days;
- b. That the 30-day suspension be stayed and respondent be placed on probation for two (2) years with the terms of probation as follows:

(i) Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Director's Office in its efforts to monitor compliance with this probation and promptly respond to the Director's correspondence by the due date. Respondent shall cooperate with the Director's investigation of any allegations of unprofessional conduct which may come to the Director's attention. Upon the Director's request, respondent shall provide authorization for release of information and documentation to verify compliance with the terms of this probation;

(ii) Respondent shall abide by the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct;

(iii) Respondent shall initiate and maintain office procedures which ensure that there are prompt responses to correspondence, telephone calls, and other important communications from clients, courts and other persons interested in matters which respondent is handling, and which will ensure that respondent regularly reviews each and every file and completes legal matters on a timely basis;

(iv) Within thirty days from the date of the Court order, respondent shall provide to the Director a written plan outlining office procedures designed to ensure that respondent is in compliance with probation requirements. Respondent shall provide progress reports as requested; and

c. Respondent shall pay \$900 in costs pursuant to Rule 24, RLPR.

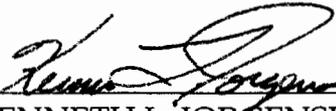
8. This stipulation is entered into by respondent freely and voluntarily, without any coercion, duress or representations by any person except as contained herein.

9. Respondent hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of this stipulation.

10. Respondent has been advised by the undersigned counsel concerning this stipulation and these proceedings generally.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties executed this stipulation on the dates indicated below.

Dated: May 27, 2003.

  
KENNETH L. JORGENSEN  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
Attorney No. 159463  
1500 Landmark Towers  
345 St. Peter Street  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1218  
(651) 296-3952

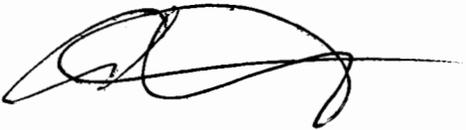
Dated: May 27, 2003.

  
TIMOTHY M. BURKE  
SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Attorney No. 19248x

Dated: May 30, 2003.

  
GEORGE C. RIGGS  
RESPONDENT

Dated: 6/2/03, 2003.

  
EDWARD F. KAUTZER  
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT  
Attorney No. 54112  
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1600 University Avenue West  
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