

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

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

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In Re Petition for Disciplinary  
Action against ROBERT C. SIPKINS,  
an Attorney at Law of the  
State of Minnesota.  
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**STIPULATION FOR DISPENSING  
WITH PANEL PROCEEDINGS,  
FOR FILING PETITION FOR  
DISCIPLINARY ACTION,  
AND FOR DISCIPLINE**

THIS STIPULATION is entered into by and between Edward J. Cleary, Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, hereinafter Director, and Robert C. Sipkins, 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. It is understood that respondent has the right to have charges of unprofessional conduct heard by a Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board Panel prior to the filing of a petition for disciplinary action, as set forth in the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR). Pursuant to Rule 10(a), RLPR, the parties agree to dispense with Panel proceedings under Rule 9, RLPR, and respondent agrees to the immediate filing of a petition for disciplinary action, hereinafter petition, in the Minnesota Supreme Court.

2. Respondent understands that upon the filing of this stipulation and the petition, this matter 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 waves the right to answer, and unconditionally admits the allegations of the petition filed herewith.

5. Respondent asserts that his neglect of the Rausch matter and his non-cooperation with the Director's investigation occurred during times when he was experiencing significant family problems. Respondent further asserts that he has not engaged in the practice of law for approximately one year.

6. 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.

7. The Director and respondent join in recommending that the appropriate discipline is a 90-day suspension pursuant to Rule 15, RLPR. The reinstatement hearing provided for in Rule 18, RLPR, is not waived. Reinstatement is conditioned upon: (1) payment of costs in the amount of \$900 pursuant to Rule 24(a), RLPR; (2) compliance with Rule 26, RLPR; (3) successful completion of the professional responsibility examination pursuant to Rule 18(e); (4) satisfaction of the continuing legal education requirements pursuant to Rule 18(e), RLPR; and (5) proof by clear and convincing evidence of respondent's then fitness to practice law including his psychological fitness. Respondent further understands that any reinstatement may be conditioned upon a probation of such length and conditions as that a Lawyers Board hearing Panel and the Supreme Court deem appropriate.

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.

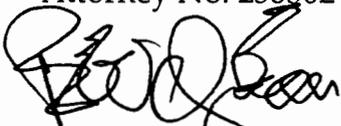
Dated: February 8, 2001.

  
EDWARD J. CLEARY  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
Attorney No. 17267  
25 Constitution Avenue, Suite 105  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1500  
(651) 296-3952

Dated: 2/8, 2001.

  
MARY L. GALVIN  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Attorney No. 238302

Dated: 2/28, 2001.

  
ROBERT C. SIPKINS  
RESPONDENT  
Attorney No. 0101552

Dated: 3/22, 2001.

  
MICHAEL J. HOOVER  
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT  
Attorney No. 47053  
201 Ridgewood Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-3508