

DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL v. STOBBS.

[Cite as *Disciplinary Counsel v. Stobbs*, 2026-Ohio-3106.]

(No. 2026-0733—Submitted August 4, 2026—Decided August 14, 2026.)

ON MOTION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE.

{¶ 1} This matter is before the court upon the filing by relator, disciplinary counsel, of a motion for order to show cause why respondent, Brent Clark Stobbs, should not be held in contempt and suspended for failing to comply with an April 13, 2026 order issued by a panel chair of the Board of Professional Conduct. On June 24, 2026, the court ordered respondent to show cause why he should not be held in contempt and suspended. No response was filed.

{¶ 2} On consideration thereof, it is ordered by this court that the motion is granted. Respondent, Brent Clark Stobbs, Attorney Registration No. 0041262, last known business address in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, is found in contempt. It is further ordered that respondent is suspended from the practice of law in Ohio until proof is filed with this court that respondent has complied with the panel chair's April 13, 2026 order.

{¶ 3} It is further ordered that respondent immediately cease and desist from the practice of law in any form and that respondent is forbidden to appear on behalf of another before any court, judge, commission, board, administrative agency, or other public authority.

{¶ 4} It is further ordered that effective immediately, respondent is forbidden to counsel, advise, or prepare legal instruments for others or in any manner perform legal services for others.

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{¶ 5} It is further ordered that respondent is divested of each, any, and all of the rights, privileges, and prerogatives customarily accorded to a member in good standing of the legal profession of Ohio.

{¶ 6} It is further ordered that before entering into an employment, contractual, or consulting relationship with any attorney or law firm, respondent shall verify that the attorney or law firm has complied with the registration requirements of Gov.Bar R. V(23)(C). If employed pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(23), respondent shall refrain from direct client contact except as provided in Gov.Bar R. V(23)(A)(1) and from receiving, disbursing, or otherwise handling any client trust funds or property.

{¶ 7} It is further ordered that pursuant to Gov.Bar R. X(13), respondent shall complete one credit hour of continuing legal education for each month, or portion of a month, of the suspension. As part of the total credit hours of continuing legal education required by Gov.Bar R. X(13), respondent shall complete one credit hour of instruction related to professional conduct required by Gov.Bar R. X(3)(B) for each six months, or portion of six months, of the suspension.

{¶ 8} It is further ordered that respondent shall not be reinstated to the practice of law in Ohio until (1) respondent complies with the requirements for reinstatement set forth in the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, (2) respondent complies with this and all other orders issued by this court, (3) respondent complies with the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, and (4) this court orders respondent reinstated.

{¶ 9} It is further ordered that on or before 30 days from the date of this order, respondent shall do the following:

{¶ 10} 1. Notify all clients being represented in pending matters and any cocounsel of respondent's suspension and consequent disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order and, in the absence of cocounsel, also

notify the clients to seek legal services elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency in seeking the substitution of another attorney in respondent's place;

{¶ 11} 2. Regardless of any fees or expenses due, deliver to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property pertaining to the client or notify the clients or cocounsel, if any, of a suitable time and place where the papers or other property may be obtained, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining such papers or other property;

{¶ 12} 3. Refund any part of any fees or expenses paid in advance that are unearned or not paid and account for any trust money or property in respondent's possession or control;

{¶ 13} 4. Notify opposing counsel or, in the absence of counsel, the adverse parties in pending litigation of respondent's disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order and file a notice of disqualification of respondent with the court or agency before which the litigation is pending for inclusion in the respective file or files;

{¶ 14} 5. Send all notices required by this order by certified mail with a return address where communications may thereafter be directed to respondent;

{¶ 15} 6. File with the clerk of this court and disciplinary counsel of the Supreme Court an affidavit showing compliance with this order, showing proof of service of the notices required herein, and setting forth the address where the affiant may receive communications; and

{¶ 16} 7. Retain and maintain a record of the various steps taken by respondent pursuant to this order.

{¶ 17} It is further ordered that until such time as respondent fully complies with this order, respondent shall keep the clerk and disciplinary counsel advised of any change of address where respondent may receive communications.

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{¶ 18} It is further ordered that service shall be deemed made on respondent by sending this order, and all other orders in this case, to respondent's last known address.

{¶ 19} It is further ordered that the clerk of this court issue certified copies of this order as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(17)(D)(1) and that publication be made as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(17)(D)(2).

KENNEDY, C.J., and FISCHER, DEWINE, and SHANAHAN, JJ., concur.

DETERS, J., concurs in part and dissents in part and would order compliance with the panel chair's order but would not impose a suspension.

BRUNNER and HAWKINS, JJ., not participating.
