

BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT PANEL A

IN RE:

Matthew M. Henry, Respondent Arkansas Bar No. 2005167 Docket No. CPC-2018-013

ORDER OF INTERIM SUSPENSION

Stark Ligon, Executive Director of the Supreme Court Office of Professional Conduct, has presented to the Committee his verified Petition for Interim Suspension, pursuant to Section 16.A(3) of the Supreme Court Procedures Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys at Law (2011) (the "Procedures"), alleging Respondent Matthew M. Henry, Arkansas Bar No. 2005167, an attorney practicing law primarily in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, presently poses a substantial threat of serious harm to the public and to his clients if he continues to practice law.

The Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct (the "Committee"), pursuant to the mandate of Section 16 of the Procedures, finds the allegations of the petition are "serious misconduct," and involve alleged violations of the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct for:

- An estimated \$400,000 in client funds in one estate, Jefferson County Circuit No. 35pr-15-131, deposited into Henry's IOLTA trust account in August 2015 are not presently accounted for by Mr. Henry. A motion or accounting and to compel transfer of funds directed to Henry was recently filed by new counsel for the client. Rules 1.15, 8.4(b), and 8.4(c).
- 2. In Pulaski County Circuit No. 60cv17-7179, Henry is the subject of an Order to Show Cause issued March 6, 2018 and directing his court appearance on April 2, 2018, based on his failure to obey an order issued January 23, 2018, directing him to pay over \$25,000 in funds he claimed to be holding and to provide the court all of his IOLTA trust account records for the period October 1, 2017-January 26, 2018. Rules 1.15, 3.4(c), 8.4(c), and 8.4(d).
- 3. In Pulaski County Circuit No. 60dr-15-4417, a Pick-Up Order was issued February 12, 2018 for Henry with a cash bond of \$6,774.12 for his willful contempt for failure to pay child support. The divorce decree entered in this case recites evidence of at least interesting, if not suspicious use by Henry of his trust account funds. Rules 3.4(c) and 8.4(d).
- 4. Henry has had at least ten (10) new grievance files opened at OPC since October 2016.

The Committee further finds that an interim suspension of Respondent's privilege to practice law under the authority of his Arkansas law license shall be imposed pursuant to Section

7E(3)(c)(iii), of the Procedures (2011).

It is therefore ORDERED that Respondent Matthew M. Henry be, and he hereby is, SUSPENDED from the practice of law within this jurisdiction immediately upon the filing of this Order with the Clerk of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Date:

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, PANEL &

BY:

T. Benton Smith, Jr., Chair, Panel

(16.D.1, Rev. 05/31/16)