# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS IN THE MATTER OF TOMMY C. SHEFFIELD MISC. DOCKET NO. 99-\_\_\_\_\_

# <u>ORDER</u>

On this day, the Court considered the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation in Lieu of Discipline filed by Attorney and Counselor at Law, Tommy C. Sheffield, together with the Response by Chief Disciplinary Counsel to the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation in Lieu of Discipline as Attorney and Counselor of Tommy C. Sheffield. The Court has reviewed said Motion and Response and finds that each meets the requirements of Part X of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. In conformity with Part X, Section 10.02, of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, the Court considers the detailed statement of professional misconduct contained within the Response of Chief Disciplinary Counsel to be conclusively established for all purposes. The Court, being advised that the acceptance of the resignation is in the best interest of the public and the profession, hereby concludes that the following Order is appropriate.

IT IS ORDERED that the law license of Tommy C. Sheffield of Copperas Cove, Texas, State Bar Card Number 18185500, heretofore issued by the Court, be cancelled and his name be dropped and deleted from the list of persons licensed to practice law in Texas.

The Court acknowledges receipt of Texas law license and State Bar Card of Tommy C. Sheffield.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield, be and hereby is, permanently enjoined and prohibited from practicing law in the State of Texas, holding himself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal services for others, giving legal advice to others, accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, appearing as counsel or in any representative capacity in any proceeding in any Texas court or before any Texas administrative body (whether state, county, municipal, or other), or holding himself out to others or using his name in any manner in conjunction with the words "Attorney at Law," "Counselor at Law," or "Lawyer."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield, shall, within thirty (30) days after the date on which this Order is signed by the Court, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every Texas court in which Tommy C. Sheffield may have any client matter pending, advising each court of his resignation, of the style and cause number of any matter pending in that court, and of the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) he is representing in that court. Tommy C. Sheffield, is ORDERED to send copies of all such notifications to the Office of the General Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Donovan Kaplan in the amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$3,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Donovan Kaplan and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Carol M. Golding in the amount of Three Hundred Ninety-Four and 00/100 (\$394.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Carol M. Golding and delivered by certified

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99- 9071 PAGE 2 OF 11 mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Robert Golding in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$7,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Robert Golding and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Mary E. Thompson in the amount of Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Mary E. Thompson and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Michael J. Miller in the amount of Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Michael J. Miller and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99-PAGE 3 OF 11

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Lola M. Balades in the amount of Two Thousand Nine Hundred and 00/100 (\$2,900.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Lola M. Balades and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Dustin L. Kaplan in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$1,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Dustin L. Kaplan and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Janice D. Hyman in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$2,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Janice D. Hyman and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Glynda M. Cook in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$2,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Glynda M. Cook and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas,

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99- 9071 PAGE 4 OF 11 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Howard T. Hodges in the amount of Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Howard T. Hodges and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Sonia Natoli in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$2,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Sonia Natoli and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Billie P. Campbell in the amount of Seven Hundred and 00/100 (\$700.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Billie P. Campbell and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Sun C. Williford in the amount of Ten Thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) Dollars by cashier's check

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99-PAGE 5 OF 11 or money order made payable to Sun C. Williford and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Robert T. Sanchez in the amount of Seven Hundred and 00/100 (\$700.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Robert T. Sanchez and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Efren Lopez in the amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred and 00/100 (\$2,400.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Efren Lopez and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Mark W. Eugene in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$1,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Mark W. Eugene and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99-9071 PAGE 6 OF 11 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Manuel Rodriguez in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$2,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Manuel Rodriguez and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to John F. Haynes in the amount of Three Hundred Fifty and 00/100 (\$350.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to John F. Haynes and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Clyde G. Haynes in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$2,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Clyde G. Haynes and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Frank W. Newman in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty and 00/100 (\$750.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Frank W. Newman and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99- 9071 PAGE 7 OF 11

**'**۳

Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Roberta A. Carlisle in the amount of One Thousand and 00/100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Roberta A. Carlisle and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Juan Lopez in the amount of One Thousand and 00/100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Juan Lopez and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Ivry J. Johnson in the amount of Four Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$4,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Ivry J. Johnson and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Randy J. Nunn in the amount of One Thousand One Hundred and 00/100 (\$1,100.00) Dollars by

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99-PAGE 8 OF 11

'n

cashier's check or money order made payable to Randy J. Nunn and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Wanda L. Simmons in the amount of Eight Hundred and 00/100 (\$800.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Wanda L. Simmons and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Margarita Sanchez in the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty and 00/100 (\$850.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Margarita Sanchez and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Michael M. Stewart in the amount of Five Thousand One Hundred and 00/100 (\$5,100.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Michael M. Stewart and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99-\_\_\_\_\_\_ PAGE 9 OF 11

۰.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Michael D. LaBarge in the amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$3,500.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Michael D. LaBarge and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall make restitution to Julian Antonio Castillo in the amount of Eight Thousand and 00/100 (\$8,000.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to Julian Antonio Castillo and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Tommy C. Sheffield shall pay as a cost in connection with the disciplinary proceedings premised upon the professional misconduct described in the detailed statement contained within the Response of Chief Disciplinary Counsel reasonable attorneys' fees in the amount of Five Thousand and no/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars by cashier's check or money order made payable to State Bar of Texas and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99-PACE 10 OF 10 **PAGE 10 OF 11** 

۰. ۱ By the Court, en banc and in chambers, on this the  $\frac{22}{2}$  day of pr:1 \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice

Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

Craig T. Enoch, Justice

<u>A. U</u>

Priscilla R. Owen, Justice

A Tans James A. Baker, Justice

Unter Greg Abbott, Justice

elinah D.

Deborah G. Hankinson, Justice

J. Neill

Harriet O'Neill, Justice

meler Alberto R. Gonzales, Justice

MISC. DOCKET NO. 99-PAGE 11 OF 11

9071

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel

April 7, 1999

CM, RRR P 160 019 384 John Adams, Clerk Supreme Court of Texas P. O. Box 12248 Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Tommy C. Sheffield

Dear Mr. Adams:

Pursuant to Part X of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, please find enclosed herewith the following:

- 1. Original executed Motion for Acceptance of Resignation as Attorney and Counselor at Law for the above referenced attorney;
- 2. Original and two (2) copies of the Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel to Motion for Acceptance of Resignation as Attorney and Counselor at Law for the above referenced attorney;
- 3. Original Order of Resignation for the Court's signature; and
- 4. Original bar card and law license for the above referenced attorney.

Pursuant to Rule 10.02 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, the required ten (10) day time frame has passed and the above-referenced attorney has made no attempt to withdraw the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation. Therefore, the detailed statement of professional misconduct is deemed to have been conclusively established for all purposes.

Please return a fully executed copy of the Order to our office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

J.G. Molleston Assistant Disciplinary Counsel Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel State Bar of Texas

/mam

Enclosures

cc: Tommy C. Sheffield
c/o Delores Haferkamp
P. O. Box 75
Gatesville, Texas 76528
CM, RRR P 160 019 345

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

# RESPONSE OF THE CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS REGARDING TOMMY C. SHEFFIELD

# TO THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS:

I, Steven W. Young, Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, in accordance with Part X of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, hereby file a response on behalf of the State Bar of Texas, acting by and through the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, to the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation in Lieu of Discipline as Attorney and Counselor at Law of **Tommy C**. **Sheffield**, dated March 19, 1999. The acceptance of the resignation of Tommy C. Sheffield is in the best interest of the public and the profession.

The professional misconduct with which **Tommy C. Sheffield** (hereafter called "**Sheffield**"), is charged is as follows:

#### F0089808161

On or about May 19, 1998, Donavan Kaplan ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a misdemeanor family violence case. Complainant paid Sheffield \$3,500 of which \$2,000 was a non-refundable retainer (according to the contract of employment). Complainant states that he has not hear from Sheffield since the date he was hired in May. When he would go by Sheffield's office, Sheffield would not be in. On June 18, Complainant found out that the case had been dismissed with an Affidavit of Non-Prosecution filed by the prosecuting witness. On July 22, Complainant sent Sheffield a request for a refund since Sheffield had done no work on the case. On the day the complaint was signed, Complainant

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

Page 1 of 21

learned that Sheffield's office was closed and out of business. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of his matter or to comply with his reasonable requests for information.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$3,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

On September 15, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0099808211

Carol M. Golding ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to handle an appeal. Sheffield was paid \$500.00 of which \$106.00 was court costs. Sheffield did not file the appeal in a timely manner. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant informed about the status of her case.

On September 11, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$394.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0099808236

In June, 1996, Robert Golding ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a family law matter (divorce and custody). Sheffield was paid \$7,500.00. Since the

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

•

representation began, Sheffield has not appeared for court hearings and did not tell Complainant before entering into agreements concerning the case. In addition, Complainant's mother organized the case for hearings, not Sheffield. Complainant had to retain other counsel to correct the paperwork that Sheffield had prepared incorrectly.

On September 14, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$7,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0099808240

On December 22, 1997, Mary E. Thompson ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent her in a child custody case. Sheffield was paid \$5,000.00. Complainant was told that the case would be heard in New Mexico and that Sheffield would need to hire a New Mexico attorney. Complainant paid Sheffield \$3,000.00 for the New Mexico attorney. Sheffield's check to that attorney was returned insufficient. Sheffield promised to wire her the money but never did. Complainant was informed of a pre-trial hearing on her case. Sheffield did not appear at the hearing, and Complainant learned that Sheffield never paid the New Mexico attorney. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of her matter or to comply with her reasonable requests for information.

On September 21, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter

# Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

•

advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$5,000.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0099808257

On January 18, 1998, Michael J. Miller ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a criminal case. Sheffield was paid a retainer of \$2,500.00, and Complainant was to make payments toward another \$2,500.00. Each time Complainant saw Sheffield, he had to explain his case again. After repeated requests, Sheffield arranged for a polygraph of Complainant. Complainant passed that exam, and Sheffield was going to take the results to the district attorney's office but failed to do so. When Complainant contacted Sheffield's office about his case, he was told by staff to do his own footwork because Sheffield was neglecting his case. Complainant went to his own court docket call without Respondent and was incarcerated for a short period when Respondent failed to appear. Respondent stopped communicating with Complainant after the polygraph exam.

On September 14, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$5,000.00 in the above-styled matter. The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

ʻ**.** .

#### F0099808260

On February 24, 1998, Lola M. Balades ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent her in a contested custody case. Complainant paid \$2,900.00 to Sheffield to modify the child support papers which would change custody to Complainant and stop the child support garnishment. The paperwork was never completed. Complainant tried to contact Sheffield's office in August and was unable to reach him.

On September 14, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$2,900.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0099808268

On June 2, 1998, Dustin L. Kaplan ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a DWI case. Sheffield was paid \$1,500.00 for his services. Complainant was unable to reach Sheffield after he was retained. An appointment was scheduled for July 8, one day before a scheduled court appearance. The appointment was canceled by Sheffield. In addition, Sheffield did not appear at the court hearing.

On September 25, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$1,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

#### Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

Page 5 of 21

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0099808294

On April 16, 1998, Janice D. Hyman ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent her son in a criminal matter. Sheffield was paid a retainer of \$2,500.00 and Complainant was to pay an additional \$2,500.00 before the trial was over. A trial date had been scheduled for April 18 which was rescheduled by Sheffield to June 29. Complainant and her son had appointments to meet with Sheffield but he did not appear for those appointments. In addition, Complainant's son was arrested on the warrant that Sheffield was to have had pulled. Complainant's son appeared without counsel and resolved the case.

On September 25, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$2,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0099808309

On December 18, 1998, Glynda M. Cook ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent her in a criminal matter. Sheffield was paid \$2,500.00 for a jury trial. Complainant has been unable to contact Sheffield. Sheffield's work has consisted of filing some papers and serving papers to four witnesses. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of her matter or to

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield comply with her reasonable requests for information.

,

On November 4, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$2,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0099808310

On January 10, 1997, Howard T. Hodges ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a criminal case. Sheffield was paid \$5,000.00. Sheffield did not appear at a scheduled court date on August 31, 1998. The judge gave the Complainant three months to find another lawyer. Complainant states that he had tried to contact Sheffield prior to the court date, but his calls were never returned. Complainant retained another attorney to handle the matter.

On September 25, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$5,000.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0109808333

On June 23, 1998, Sonia Natoli ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent her in a divorce. Sheffield was paid \$2,500.00. Complainant tried to contact Sheffield on numerous

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield occasions but was unable to do so. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of her matter or to comply with her reasonable requests for information.

On October 6, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$2,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0109808351

Billie P. Campbell ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to handle a modification of a court order. Sheffield filed the modification on October 20, 1997. The modification was to change conservatorship of the child from the paternal grandmother back to the mother. CPS had entered a Review Hearing Order on December 21, 1995 naming the paternal grandmother as managing conservator. Complainant states that when she went to pay Sheffield, he requested cash. When she returned and paid \$700.00 cash, he was not in his office. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of her matter or to comply with her reasonable requests for information.

On November 4, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

`• <sub>.</sub>

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$700.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0109808379

On February 27, 1998, Sun C. Williford ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent his son in a criminal case. Sheffield was paid \$10,000.00. Since that time, Sheffield has only seen his son once and continues to push the court appearance date back. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of his matter or to comply with his reasonable requests for information.

On October 15, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$10,000.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0109808381

On May 19, 1998, Robert T. Sanchez ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a criminal matter. Sheffield was paid \$700.00. An appointment was scheduled to discuss the July 7 hearing. Sheffield canceled that meeting and did not appear at the hearing. Complainant went to court without Respondent. After the hearing, Complainant tried to contact Sheffield but he was never available. Sheffield contacted Complainant prior to the August grand

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

Page 9 of 21

jury meeting. After that, Complainant continued to try to contact Sheffield but finally gave up.

On October 15, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$700.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0109808403

On May 15, 1998, Efren Lopez ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to handle a family law matter. Sheffield was paid \$1,000.00 as a retainer and was paid an additional \$1,400.00. Complainant paid a total of \$2,400.00 to Sheffield. During this time, the secretary would keep him informed about the case. After the paternity test was taken, Complainant was unable to reach Sheffield by telephone. Complainant had to retain other counsel to complete the case.

On October 26, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$2,400.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0109808404

On January 16, 1998, Mark W. Eugene ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a criminal case. Sheffield was paid \$1,500.00. Sheffield did not complete representation

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

'.

Page 10 of 21

of Complainant prior to having his law license suspended. Complainant states he had to retain other counsel to complete the case.

On October 29, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$1,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0109808411

On November 25, 1997, Manuel J. Rodriguez ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in an alleged felony charge. Sheffield was paid a \$2,500.00 retainer with a balance remaining of \$5,000.00. Complainant scheduled several appointments to meet with Sheffield. Sheffield did not appear for those appointments nor did he reschedule the meetings. At the one meeting he had with Sheffield, Sheffield did not discuss his case but another client's case. At the arraignment, Sheffield arrived late. In August, 1998, Complainant began to contact Sheffield but was unable to reach him. When Sheffield returned his call, Complainant was told that Sheffield's mother had passed away, and he had been out of town taking care of the estate. Complainant was appointed an attorney to represent him in this case. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of his matter or to comply with his reasonable requests for information.

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield On October 26, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$2,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0109808412

On January 20, 1997, John F. Haynes ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to expunge some records. Sheffield was paid \$350.00. Complainant states that he has contacted Sheffield's office on several occasions to inquire about a court date, but he has not received a court date. On July 9, 1998, Sheffield had not filed the expungement of records. Complainant has been unable to contact Sheffield.

On October 26, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$350.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0109808436

On February 4, 1997, Clyde G. Haynes ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to recover money for him. Sheffield was paid \$2,500.00. Sheffield did not provide any information to Complainant to show what steps had been taken in Complainant's case. When Complainant

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

Page 12 of 21

received his file from the custodian, no work had been done on the case. Complainant states that Sheffield has not completed any work to earn the \$2,500.00.

On October 29, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$2,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0119808469

On January 12, 1998, Frank W. Newman ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to handle his divorce. Sheffield was paid \$750.00. Complainant alleges that after Sheffield was hired, limited work was performed on his case. In addition, Sheffield did not respond to his telephone calls requesting updates on his case.

On November 4, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$750.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0119808478

On February 24, 1998, Roberta A. Carlisle ("Complainant") retained Sheffield in reference to a DHS appointment. Sheffield alarmed the Complainant by telling her that she

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

• . . .

Page 13 of 21

could have potential felony charges filed against her for welfare fraud. Respondent was paid \$1,000.00. Complainant was later told that no charges had been filed nor were charges going to be filed. Since the initial consultation, Complainant has not seen or heard from Sheffield. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of her matter or to comply with her reasonable requests for information.

On November 16, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$1,000.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1) and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0119808491

On February 3, 1998, Juan Lopez ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a criminal matter. Sheffield was paid a retainer of \$1,000.00 and Complainant had a balance of \$2,500.00. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of his matter or to comply with his reasonable requests for information.

On November 17, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$1,000.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1) and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

•' :

#### F0119808521

On April 16, 1996, Ivry J. Johnson ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a contested divorce case with custody. Complainant's wife filed for divorce in California and had Complainant served here in Texas. Sheffield filed for divorce papers in Texas for Complainant. Complainant had no communications from Sheffield from July 1996 to May 1997. Complainant retained another attorney to investigate the matter. Sheffield only responded to Complainant after being sent a certified letter. Sheffield failed to provide any meaningful legal services to Complainant. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant adequately informed about the status of his matter or to comply with his reasonable requests for information.

On December 9, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$4,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1) and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0129808590

On April 13, 1998, Randy J. Nunn ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a custody and child support case. Complainant's daughter was 14 years old and wanted to live with him. Sheffield was paid \$500.00 and told Complainant there would be no problem

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield getting custody. Complainant's ex-wife filed for back child support. Complainant gave the paperwork to Sheffield who said the necessary documents would be filed. Sheffield was not present at the court hearing. Complainant paid a total of \$1,100.00 to Sheffield and Sheffield did not appear at several court hearings nor could Complainant reach Sheffield.

1 1

On December 22, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$1,100.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1) and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0129808592

On May 6, 1998, Wanda L. Simmons ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent her husband in a DWI jury trial. Sheffield was paid \$800.00 and was to be paid \$5,000.00 in full by the trial date. Complainant states that Sheffield began to cancel their appointments and court hearings. In addition, he took a 2 month sick leave. Complainant and her husband were unable to communicate with Sheffield.

On December 2, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$800.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.04(a)(1) and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

· · · ·

Page 16 of 21

#### F0029908808

1<sup>2</sup> 1 - <sup>1</sup>

On April 6, 1998, Margarita Sanchez ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent her in a divorce. Sheffield was paid \$850.00. Complainant states that Sheffield abandoned her case. She was informed that he had been suspended and had not been informed by Sheffield of this fact.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$850.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 8.04(a)(1) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0029908756

On September 2, 1996, Michael M. Stewart ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a contested child custody and divorce case. Sheffield was paid \$10,150.00. Sheffield would fall asleep during meetings and confuse Complainant's case with other cases. Sheffield had a conflict with the assigned judge during court hearings. Sheffield consciously disregarded his responsibility to prepare for court hearings. Sheffield was paid \$5,100.00 to finalize the divorce decree and file an appeal. Sheffield failed to obtain the final decree or file the appeal.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$5,100.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 8.04(a)(1) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0019908653

On January 27, 1998, Michael D. LaBarge ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in four misdemeanor cases. Sheffield was paid \$3,500.00. Complainant states Sheffield pushed his cases off for months and then he was suspended and not able to complete the work on the cases.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$3,500.00 in the above-styled matter.

· `· ·

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 8.04(a)(1) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

+\* 23 \*

#### F0019807334

On or about March 19, 1997, John Shafer ("Complainant") retained Tommy C. Sheffield to represent him in a divorce and child custody case.

During the representation, Sheffield neglected a legal matter entrusted to him by consciously disregarding his responsibility to his client by failing to prepare Complainant for a deposition, by failing to prepare Complainant and his witnesses for trial; and further, by failing to timely schedule hearings, and by not preparing court orders accurately and in a timely manner.

Further, Sheffield failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of his case, by not communicating with Complainant, and by repeatedly giving Complainant incorrect information.

The foregoing facts support a violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### F0029807472

On or about May 28, 1997, Michael S. Schmidt ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in both a criminal matter, and a divorce action. During the representation, Sheffield neglected the legal matters entrusted to him by consciously disregarding his responsibility to adequately prepare both of Complainant's cases.

Further, Sheffield failed to communicate with Complainant by not returning his phone calls and by not keeping scheduled appointments.

Sheffield accepted a fee in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Complainant. A substantial

· · ·

portion of the fee remained unearned upon termination of representation. Despite Complainant's requests that he do so, Sheffield failed to timely account for the unearned portion of the fee.

1 25 1

In addition, on or after September 19, 1997, Sheffield instructed a legal assistant working in his office to complete an itemized bill for services rendered to Complainant. Sheffield permitted the legal assistant to neglect to complete the itemized bill by failing to properly supervise the legal assistant and to see that the bill was completed.

Furthermore, on March 2, 1998 Sheffield received a copy of the complaint with a request to respond within thirty (30) days of receipt. The State Bar of Texas did not receive a response from Sheffield until April 13, 1998. As a result, Sheffield failed to comply with Rule 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, by failing to file a timely response.

The foregoing facts support a violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.14(b), 5.03(b)(1), 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

# S0109806900

On November 20, 1996, Forrest J. French ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent his daughter on criminal charges of credit card abuse. Sheffield failed to finalize and obtain the expungement order relative to the daughter's arrest and failed to reasonably communicate with his client upon closing his office.

On October 24, 1998, Sheffield received a copy of this complaint, accompanied by a letter advising him that a written response was required within thirty days. Sheffield did not submit a response to the grievance.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

· · ·.

#### A0129703037

\* 23 3

In December, 1997 Julian Antonio Castillo ("Complainant") retained Sheffield to represent him in a criminal case. Sheffield was paid \$5,000.00 for the trial and \$3,000.00 for an appeal. Sheffield confused Complainant's case with other cases and failed to obtain records relating to Complainant's defense. Sheffield failed to file an appeal. Sheffield consciously disregarded his responsibility to prepare for Complainant's trial. Sheffield failed to keep Complainant reasonably informed about the status of his case or to comply with reasonable requests for information.

Complainant is entitled to restitution in the amount of \$8,000.00 in the above-styled matter.

The foregoing facts support violation of Rules 1.01(b)(1) and 1.03(a) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Sheffield should be ordered to pay as a cost in connection with the described disciplinary proceedings reasonable attorneys' fees in the amount of \$5,000.00 by cashier's check or money order made payable to the State Bar of Texas and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, care of the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, 500 Throckmorton Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, as an absolute condition precedent to making application for reinstatement to admission to the State Bar of Texas.

WHEREFORE, the State Bar of Texas moves the Court to accept the resignation in lieu of discipline, and grant the motion filed by Tommy C. Sheffield.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve W. Young General Counsel

J. G. Molleston Assistant General Counsel

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

Page 20 of 21

Fort Worth, Texas 76102 817/877-4993

817/335-4249 (FAX)

- F. G. Molleston - State Bar Card No. 00795924

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

A true and correct copy of this Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield has been served upon Tommy C. Sheffield, c/o Denores Haferkamp, P. O. Box 75, Gatesville, Texas 76528, by delivery of a true and correct copy to him by certified mail, return receipt requested, on the 24th day of March, 1999.

J. G. Molleston State Bar Card No. 00795924

Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas Regarding Tommy C. Sheffield

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS MOTION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AS ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

OF

# Tommy C. Sheffield

NOW COMES your Applicant, **Tommy C. Sheffield**, and hereby resigns as an Attorney and Counselor at Law in the State of Texas; and hereby submits to the Court his resignation as an Attorney and Counselor at Law; and prays that the Court accept said resignation.

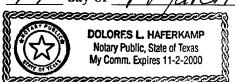
Attached hereto is the License and permanent State Bar card issued by this Court to the Applicant, **Tommy C. Sheffield**, as an Attorney and Counselor at Law on May 14, 1982. Said License and permanent State Bar card are hereby surrendered by the Applicant.

Your applicant is voluntarily resigning and withdrawing from the practice of law; Applicant does so in lieu of discipline for professional misconduct; and Applicant prays that his name be dropped and deleted from the list of persons licensed to practice law in Texas; and that his resignation be accepted.

Tommy C. Sheffield

SBN: 18185500

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me by the said Tommy C. Sheffield this the



Tommy C. Sheffield c/o Delores Haferkamp P. O. Box 75 Gatesville, Texas 76528

CF6-17.PRI