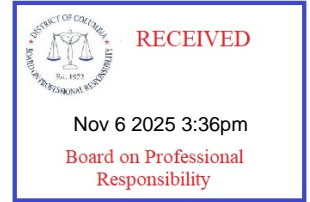


DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS  
BOARD ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



In the Matter of :  
Elizabeth Hughes, : Disciplinary Docket Nos.  
Respondent. : 2023-D105 and 2025-D090

RESPONDENT’S ANSWER TO SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

Respondent Elizabeth Hughes, through counsel, hereby respectfully submits this Answer to the Specification of Charges filed by the Disciplinary Counsel. To the extent this Answer indicates that we are without sufficient information to admit or deny, this should be construed as a denial.

1. This paragraph is admitted, though the following sentence – “The facts giving rise to the charges of misconduct are as follows” – is denied.

COUNT I: Disciplinary Docket No. 2025-D090

2. Admitted.
3. Admitted.
4. Admitted.
5. Admitted.
6. Admitted, though the characterization, “sustained failure to comply with her responsibilities,” is denied.
7. We are without sufficient information to admit or deny.

8. Admitted that the Court reminded Respondent of deadlines, though we are unsure whether this happened “[a]t each hearing.”

9. Respondent admits that she informed the Court that Ms. Rutledge was doing fine and had moved in with her mother because of COVID and that the Court ordered Respondent to file the missing guardianship reports and a change of address for Ms. Rutledge. Respondent denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 9. In particular, if intentional falsity is implied, this is denied.

10. Admitted.

11. As noted above, we are without sufficient information to admit Ms. Rutledge’s precise date of death. The remainder of this paragraph is admitted.

12. As noted above, we are without sufficient information to admit Ms. Rutledge’s precise date of death. Further, to the extent intentional falsity is implied, this is denied. The remainder of this paragraph is admitted.

13. Admitted.

14. We are without sufficient information to admit or deny.

15. Respondent admits that she reported that she had not visited Ms. Rutledge in person because of COVID concerns, since the requirement for visitation had been suspended. Further, she reported her belief that Ms. Rutledge’s physical and mental health remained the same, that her address was the same, that she was content and that guardianship should continue. Respondent denies all other

allegations in Paragraph 15. In particular, to the extent intentional falsity is implied, this is denied.

16. Admitted.

17. Admitted that the Court ordered a case review, as is required every three years. We are without sufficient information to admit or deny precisely what Ms. Rutledge's daughter said.

18. Admitted, though we note that the document speaks for itself.

19. Admitted, except that to the extent intentional falsity is implied, this is denied.

20. We do not have the transcript so as to be able to verify precisely what was said at the hearing. Further, to the extent intentional falsity is implied, this is denied.

21. Admitted.

22. We are without a basis to deny the substance of this but cannot confirm the date.

23. Admitted.

24. Admitted.

25. Admitted, though given the procedural status of this matter, we request that this Answer be construed as the Respondent's response to the bar complaint.

26. Admitted.

27. Denied.

COUNT II: Disciplinary Docket No. 2023-D105

28. The document speaks for itself and we are unable to affirm or deny the precise phraseology used in the bar complaint.

29. Admitted.

30. Admitted, except that we are unsure whether Respondent was granted additional time even when she failed to timely request it. Additionally, Respondent provided several updates to Disciplinary Counsel about her efforts to respond, provided relevant documents, and provided substantial information via letter regarding the issues raised in the complaint.

31. We submit that the phrase “missed several deadlines” is too vague for us to admit or deny. We admit that by the stated date, she had not produced the Lewis files or answered the bar complaint, however, she had provided some documents and substantial information responsive to the Complaint via letter on August 14, 2023.

32. Admitted.

33. Admitted.

34. Admitted.

35. Admitted.

36. Documents had been produced but a formal answer to the Complaint was not provided by the stated date.

37. We request that this Answer be construed as Respondent's answer to the bar complaint. To the extent additional questions were asked of Respondent, we admit she has not yet responded to them.

38. Denied.

#### STATEMENT OF MITIGATING FACTORS

Ms. Hughes respectfully submits that she is eligible to be considered for mitigation pursuant to *In re Kersey*, 520 A.2d 321, 325-27 (D.C. 1987). Ms. Hughes' Notice of Intent to Raise Disability (or Addiction) in Mitigation is being filed contemporaneously herewith in accordance with Board Rule 7.6(a).

Date: November 6, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Barry Coburn

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