

New Hampshire Supreme Court
Professional Conduct Committee

a committee of the attorney discipline system

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STANDING ORDER CONCERNING FILE REDACTION

On May 15, 2012, the Professional Conduct Committee voted in favor of the following policy:

In lieu of requiring General Counsel and/or Disciplinary Counsel to file requests for protective orders, pursuant to New Hampshire Supreme Court Rule 37(21)(c), in all cases where the files that are about to become public contain "...confidential, malicious, personal, privileged information or materials submitted in bad faith," the Professional Conduct Committee hereby delegates to General Counsel and/or Disciplinary Counsel the authority to redact such information from files before they become public, provided that the following steps are taken:

a. General Counsel and/or Disciplinary Counsel will provide both the complainant and the responding attorney(s) with notice of their intended redaction of materials in the file to be made public. Materials and information to be redacted may include (but is not necessarily limited to) the following:

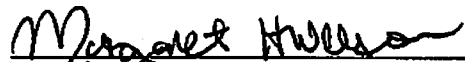
- records pertaining to delinquency and abuse and neglect proceedings
- financial affidavits in divorce proceedings
- pre-sentence investigation reports
- reports of guardians ad litem
- records pertaining to termination of parental rights proceedings
- records pertaining to adoption proceedings
- records pertaining to guardianship proceedings
- records pertaining to mental health proceedings

- records sealed by the court
- social security numbers
- dates of birth
- juror questionnaires
- driver's license numbers
- financial account numbers
- medical records

b. Copies of the proposed redacted materials will be provided to, or made available to at the Attorney Discipline Office, both the complainant and the responding attorney(s), with a notice that unless a written objection is filed within ten days of the date of that notice, the file will be made public with the intended redactions.

c. In the event that an objection to the intended redaction is filed, the intended redaction will be treated by the Professional Conduct Committee as a request for a protective order pursuant to New Hampshire Supreme Court Rule 37(21)(c) and the provisions of that rule will govern further proceedings concerning the material in question.

May 22 2012


Margaret F. Nelson
Chair

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