



OVERVIEW OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR GRIEVANCE PROCESS

FORMS OF DISCIPLINE

Letter of Caution	Communication stating that conduct, while not basis for discipline, is unprofessional or not in accord with accepted professional practice
Letter of Warning	Communication stating that conduct, while not basis for discipline, is unintentional, minor or technical breach of Rules and may be basis for discipline if continued
Admonition	Imposed for minor violations of Rules
Reprimand	Imposed in cases in which attorney violates one or more Rules and causes harm or potential harm to client, professional, administration of justice, or public, but a censure is not required
Censure	Imposed in cases in which attorney violates one or more Rules, causing harm or potential significant harm to client, professional, administration of justice or public, but a suspension is not required
Suspension up to 5 years (all or part may be stayed with conditions)	May only be imposed by DHC or Courts
Disbarment	Requires a minimum of 5 years before attorney may seek reinstatement. May only be imposed by DHC or Courts

NONDISCIPLINARY ACTIONS DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Type of Action	Disability	Letter of Caution	Letter of Warning (Letter of Admonition)	Admonition (Private Rep or Reprimand 11/13/90-12/5/91)	Reprimand	Censure	Suspensions Disbarments	Disability	Reinstatement
Given by	GC/DHC	GC/DHC	GC/DHC	GC/DHC	GC/DHC	GC/DHC	GC/DHC	GC/DHC	Sec/Council
Kept in Bar Files	Permanent	1 yr/ Permanent	3 yrs/ Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent
Copy to Complainant	Yes	No	No/ Given Order Not LOW	No/ Given Order but Not Admonition	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Recorded in NCSB Judgment Book	Yes	No	No	No/Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Becomes Public Record	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Published in Journal	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Put on Website	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sent to Courts	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sent to Media with News Release	Yes	No	No	No/Yes	No/Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes