#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 3105 Disciplinary Docket No. 3

Petitioner : No. 42 DB 2025

V. Attorney Registration No. 325777

CHRISTOPHER LEE HARRIS, (Cumberland County)

Respondent

#### **ORDER**

#### PER CURIAM

**AND NOW** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025, upon consideration of the Recommendation of the Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board, the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent is granted, and Christopher Lee Harris is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of five years, retroactive to April 30, 2025. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217 and pay costs to the Disciplinary Board. *See* Pa.R.D.E. 208(g).

A True Copy Nicole Traini As Of 11/04/2025

Chief Clerk Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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## BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,

3105 Disciplinary Docket No. 3

Petitioner

42 DB 2025

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CP-21-CR-0001721-2024

Attorney Reg. No. 325777

CHRISTOPHER LEE HARRIS,

Respondent:

(Cumberland County)

## JOINT PETITION IN SUPPORT OF DISCIPLINE ON CONSENT PURSUANT TO Pa.R.D.E. 215(d)

Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("ODC") by Thomas J. Farrell, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and Kristin A. Wells, Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, Christopher Lee Harris, respectfully petition the Disciplinary Board in support of discipline on consent, pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement ("Pa.R.D.E.") 215(d), and in support thereof state:

1. ODC, whose principal office is located at the Pennsylvania Judicial Center, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 2700, P.O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, PA 17106, is invested, pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 207, with the power and the duty to investigate all matters involving alleged misconduct of an attorney in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of the aforesaid Rules.

**FILED** 

10/24/2025

The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

- 2. Respondent was born in 1991 and was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 23, 2018. Respondent's attorney registration number is 325777. Respondent's registered address is 160 South Hanover Street, Apartment 1, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013.
- 3. On April 10, 2025, ODC and Respondent filed with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania a Joint Petition to Temporarily Suspend Attorney.
- 4. By Order dated April 30, 2025, the Supreme Court granted the Joint Petition and placed Respondent on temporary suspension.
- 5. Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 201(a)(1), Respondent is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

### SPECIFIC FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS ADMITTED

- 6. On August 11, 2023, Dropbox filed a Cybertip with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ("NCMEC") indicating that on August 10, 2023, Dropbox became aware of a file of apparent child pornography that had been uploaded to the Dropbox infrastructure by an individual with the username "charles angst" and email address clh410@yahoo.com.
- 7. Through further investigation, the Pennsylvania State Police ("PSP") were able to determine that the IP address associated with the upload

was linked to Respondent's Comcast account.

- 8. On May 31, 2024, PSP executed a search warrant at Respondent's residence.
- 9. When questioned, Respondent denied any knowledge of the clh410@yahoo.com email address associated with the Dropbox upload and claimed that the last time he had used Dropbox was sometime in 2018.
- 10. Respondent further denied ever looking at or saving any files of child sexual abuse material.
- 11. PSP seized Respondent's cell phone, on which the following was located:
  - a. child pornographic materials; and
  - b. login credentials and other user generated information artifacts for the clh410@yahoo.com email account.
- 12. On July 23, 2024, Respondent received a psychotherapy evaluation by ROST & Associates.
- 13. Respondent initiated therapy with ROST & Associates due to his pending criminal charges and his desire to learn how to process the anxiety and stresses involved with taking responsibility.
- 14. Since July 2024, Respondent has regularly participated in group and individual therapy sessions at ROST & Associates.
  - 15. On July 24, 2024, Respondent appeared before Magisterial

District Judge Jonathan R. Birbeck and waived his preliminary hearing in connection with the pending charges against him.

- 16. On September 12, 2024, an Information was filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Cumberland County charging Respondent with one count Sexual Abuse of Children Possess Child Pornography, 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312(d), a second-degree felony, one count Sexual Abuse of Children Dissemination of Photographs, 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312(c), a second-degree felony, and one count Criminal Use of a Communication Facility, 18 Pa.C.S. § 7512(a), a third-degree felony.
- 17. In October 2024, Respondent participated in a psychosexual evaluation with TRIAD Treatment Specialists, Inc. ("TRIAD").
- 18. Since January 2025, Respondent has participated in weekly group psychosexual specialized treatment with TRIAD.
- 19. On January 8, 2025, Respondent entered a guilty plea to one count Sexual Abuse of Children Possession of Child Pornography, 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312(d), a second-degree felony, in the matter captioned and docketed at *Commonwealth v. Christopher Lee Harris*, CP-21-CR-0001721-2024 (Cumberland Co.).
  - 20. Respondent reported his criminal conviction to ODC.
- 21. On April 15, 2025, Respondent was sentenced to four years' supervised probation on the conditions that he be and remain on good

behavior and comply with the standard conditions of probation for sexual offenders.

- 22. The court further directed Respondent to continue his treatment with TRIAD until he is successfully discharged from probation.
- 23. The court noted that Respondent was sentenced in the mitigated range based on his "positive steps to address the reasons behind his offense" and sincere remorse.

## SPECIFIC RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND RULES OF DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT VIOLATED

- 24. Respondent violated the following Pennsylvania Rule of Professional Conduct and Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement:
  - a. RPC 8.4(b), which states, "It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to ... commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects"; and
  - b. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(1), which provides that conviction for a crime shall be grounds for discipline.

### SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR FIVE-YEAR SUSPENSION

25. ODC and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent's admitted misconduct is a five-year suspension, retroactive to the date of Respondent's temporary suspension.

- 26. Respondent hereby consents to that discipline being imposed upon him by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Attached to this Petition as Exhibit "A" is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Pa.R.D.E. 215(d), stating that he consents to the recommended discipline and including the mandatory acknowledgements contained in Pa.R.D.E. 215(d)(1)-(4).
- 27. In support of ODC and Respondent's joint recommendation, it is respectfully submitted that the following mitigating circumstances are present:
  - Respondent showed remorse and acceptance of responsibility by waiving his preliminary hearing and by pleading guilty to his crime;
  - b. Respondent voluntarily underwent psychotherapy and psychosexual evaluation shortly after he was criminally charged and has participated consistently in mental health therapy since July 2024 and in specialized psychosexual treatment since January 2025;
  - Respondent has admitted to engaging in misconduct and violating the charged Rule of Professional Conduct and Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement;
  - d. Respondent agreed to be placed on temporary

- suspension, as evidenced by his participation in the filing of the Joint Petition to Temporarily Suspend an Attorney;
- e. Respondent is remorseful for his misconduct and understands he should be disciplined, as is evidenced by his cooperation with ODC and his consent to receiving a five-year suspension;
- f. Respondent has no prior record of discipline;
- g. Respondent has positively responded to his mental health therapy, resulting in a reduction of his therapy session schedule from bi-weekly to monthly;
- h. Attached as Exhibit "B" are four letters submitted to Respondent's sentencing judge from members of his family and community attesting to his honesty, good character, and remorse; and
- i. Respondent has no prior criminal history.
- 28. As with all disciplinary matters predicated on a criminal conviction, the sole issue to be resolved is the extent of discipline to be imposed on Respondent. *ODC v. Joshua Eilberg*, 441 A.2d 1193 (Pa. 1982). The parties submit that a suspension of five years is appropriate in light of the specific facts of this case and consistent with case precedent.

In *ODC v. George B. Ditter*, 11 DB 2016 (S. Ct. Order 10/2/2017) (on consent), the Court approved a five-year suspension on consent based on Mr. Ditter's guilty plea to one count Sexual Abuse of Children – Possession of Child Pornography, 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312(d), for which he was sentenced to twenty-three months intermediate punishment, with the first three months to be served on house arrest, followed by five years' probation. Mr. Ditter's conviction was based on three hundred pornographic images of children under the age of eighteen that were located on Mr. Ditter's law firm computer. Like Respondent, Mr. Ditter waived his preliminary hearing; agreed to a temporary suspension of his law license; and voluntarily initiated and consistently attended individual and group therapy sessions.

In *ODC v. Allan Christopher Smith*, 176 DB 2015 (S. Ct. Order 5/12/2017) (on consent), authorities located at least three hundred images of child pornography on Mr. Smith's personal computer. After waiving his preliminary hearing, Mr. Smith pled guilty to one hundred and fifty counts of Sexual Abuse of Children – Possession of Child Pornography, 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312(d), and was sentenced to five years' probation. Like Respondent, Mr. Smith immediately and voluntarily went into therapy after his arrest and consented to being placed on temporary suspension.

The undersigned submit that Respondent's misconduct, criminal

sentence, and mitigating evidence is similar to that in *Ditter* and *Smith, supra,* and dissimilar from other disciplinary matters involving felony criminal convictions for Sexual Abuse of Children — Possession of Child Pornography, which resulted in disbarment. *See e.g. ODC v. Patrick Francis Lomax*, 40 DB 2023 (S. Ct. Order 7/26/24) (resignation after jury verdict finding Mr. Lomax guilty of multiple first, second and third degree felonies involving *inter alia,* invasion of privacy and videotaping and possession of materials depicting child pornography; multiple year sentence imposed); *ODC v. James R. Protasio*, 151 DB 2019 (S. Ct. Order 4/17/2020) (resignation; guilty plea to eleven counts Sexual Abuse of Children — Possession of Child Pornography, 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312(d), for which Mr. Protasio would be sentenced to thirty-six to ninety-six months' imprisonment).

29. Based upon the circumstances presented and precedent, it is jointly recommended that Respondent receive a five-year suspension from the Bar of this Commonwealth.

WHEREFORE, ODC and Respondent respectfully request, pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(e), 215(g) and 215(i), a three-member panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent and file a recommendation with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

that Respondent receive a five-year suspension, retroactive to the date of his temporary suspension.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL Thomas J. Farrell Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Date: 10/7/2025

By: Kristin Wells

By:

Kristin A. Wells, Disciplinary Counsel Attorney Registration No. 312080 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5800 P.O. Box 62675 Harrisburg, PA 17106 (717) 772-8572

Date: 10/7/2025

Christopher L. Harris

Christopher Lee Harris, Respondent Attorney Registration No. 325777 160 South Hanover Street, Apartment 1 Carlisle, PA 17013 (903) 908-3637

## BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Attorney Reg. No. 325777

CHRISTOPHER LEE HARRIS.

Respondent:

(Cumberland County)

### **VERIFICATION**

The statements made in the foregoing Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d) are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. This statement is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/7/2025

By: Kristin Wells

Kristin A. Wells, Disciplinary Counsel Attorney Registration No. 312080 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5800 P.O. Box 62675 Harrisburg, PA 17106

(717) 772-8572

Date: \_\_\_\_10/7/2025

By: Christopher L. Harris

Christopher Lee Harris, Respondent Attorney Registration No. 325777 160 South Hanover Street, Apartment 1 Carlisle, PA 17013

(903) 908-3637

# Exhibit A

# BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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CHRISTOPHER LEE HARRIS,

Respondent: (Cumberland County)

## RESPONDENT'S AFFIDAVIT UNDER RULE 215(d) OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RULES OF DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT

Christopher Lee Harris, Respondent in the above-captioned matter, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and hereby submits this affidavit consenting to a five-year suspension and further states as follows:

- 1. I was admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 23, 2018.
- 2. By Order dated April 30, 2025, I was placed on temporary suspension.
- 3. I desire to submit a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d).
- 4. My consent is freely and voluntarily rendered; I am not being subjected to coercion or duress; I am fully aware of the implications of submitting this consent.
  - 5. I am aware there is presently pending a proceeding involving

allegations that I have been guilty of misconduct as set forth in the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d) to which this affidavit is attached.

- 6. I acknowledge that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true.
- 7. I consent because I know that if charges predicated upon the criminal conviction under investigation continued to be prosecuted in the pending proceeding, I could not successfully defend against them.
- 8. I am aware of my right to retain counsel in the instant proceeding and have elected not to retain counsel in connection with my decision to execute the Joint Petition.

I understand that the statements made herein are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. §4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Signed this 2 day of October, 2025

Christopher Lee Harris

*Longlace If Ull* Notary Public Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal Candace J Allison, Notary Public Cumberland County My commission expires November 23, 2026 Commission number 1431174

# Exhibit B

My name is Kay Lindsey, and I am writing this letter on behalf of my son, Christopher Harris.

Chris is my second-born of five children. From an early age, he showed immense potential. He was always setting goals, and as soon as he achieved one, he set another. He quickly rose through the ranks of the Boy Scouts, ultimately earning the rank of Eagle Scout. He excelled academically, graduating in the top 10 of his class. After high school, he paid his own way through college, earning numerous academic and personal awards. While in college, he was actively involved in helping students find their place on campus.

Being accepted into law school and graduating was another goal Chris set and accomplished. He has been deeply involved in his community, and despite the long, grueling hours he endured as an associate, he still found time to volunteer with many organizations. He is always willing to help others.

Christopher is a truly genuine young man and a great asset to his community. I am incredibly proud and blessed to be his mother.

Sincerely, Kay Lindsey

I am writing this letter on behalf of my boyfriend, Chris Harris.

Chris and I have been dating since September of 2023. I first met Chris in the early months of 2020 when unfortunately, the pandemic put our relationship on hold. We were reacquainted in the summer of 2023 and officially became a couple shortly thereafter. Since then, I have come to know Chris's true nature: he is a kind, hardworking, and decent man who will go out of his way to make sure others are happy and taken care of.

I had made up my mind that Chris was the one for me before these allegations came to light in May of 2024. Since then, Chris has never shied away from taking personal responsibility for his actions. He has shown repentance but also strength and resilience that has truly impressed me and has only solidified my love for him.

During this time, we have maintained normalcy as best as possible. Chris has maintained his friendships and our relationship despite enormous stress and adversity that would have taken others down. Chris is the best thing in my life and my love for him grows more every day.

Sincerely,

Luke E. Sweeney

I am writing this letter on behalf of my friend and former colleague, Chris Harris.

I first met Chris when we were both associates at a regional law firm, and it didn't take long for us to become fast friends. Our bond grew out of shared values and a strong work ethic, and over time, I came to see Chris as not only a dedicated professional but also a person of great integrity. He has always been honest, kind, and dependable. Chris has a consistently positive attitude, even in high-pressure situations. For instance, despite the demanding nature of associate life, Chris would often take the time to bake exceptional cookies, pies, and cakes to celebrate his colleagues. His thoughtfulness and generosity were felt by everyone, and he showed genuine care and respect for all of our coworkers, regardless of their position or role—a rare and invaluable quality in the often hierarchical world of law firms. He was always there to personally celebrate my achievements and to provide support on a personal and professional level whenever he could.

Chris's journey has not been one of privilege. Raised in a family without significant financial resources, the path to academic success was not always clear. Nevertheless, Chris forged ahead. He became the first in his family to graduate from college and is the only member of his family to attend graduate school. These accomplishments are a testament to his dedication, hard work, and intelligence. Beyond his professional and academic achievements, Chris is committed to giving back to the community. He has volunteered his time and efforts to several charitable organizations, showing his desire to make a positive impact on others.

In summary, Chris is a valuable member of the community. He is not only a smart and hardworking individual, but also a genuinely kind and supportive friend.

Sincerely,

Kate E. Hynes

I am writing this letter on behalf of my brother, Christopher Harris, whom I have had the privilege of knowing my entire life. As his older sibling by two years, I have watched Chris grow from a kindhearted child into a remarkable man of integrity, compassion, and dedication.

Growing up together in a household with our mother, father, younger sister, and two younger brothers, I was always the more rambunctious one, while Chris consistently sought out ways to help our family. Whether it was assisting with household chores or simply being a steady, calming presence, Chris naturally took on the role of a helper—never seeking praise, but always ready to lend a hand.

From a young age, Chris excelled in school. Out of all of us siblings, he consistently achieved the highest grades. He was not only academically gifted, but also driven by a desire to make a difference. His early involvement in the Boy Scouts of America, where he earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, is just one example of his commitment to service. For his Eagle Scout project, Chris designed and built a flower garden for our local school — a gesture that combined beauty, community service, and thoughtful planning.

As teenagers, Chris and I worked together at a local restaurant. I witnessed firsthand how well-respected he was by our peers and supervisors alike. Customers were drawn to his professionalism and kindness — qualities that have remained at the core of who he is. Even back then, Chris often spoke about his dream of becoming a lawyer so he could help others, and it was clear that he was someone who truly meant it.

Chris was the first in our family to graduate from college. While there, he not only succeeded academically but also played in the college band and mentored incoming freshmen. He was known among his peers for his dependability, patience, and willingness to support others, always making time for those who needed guidance.

After graduating, Chris took a thoughtful pause to consider his next steps. True to his nature as a planner, he wanted to pursue law school but was uncertain how he would finance it. Eventually, he took a leap of faith and was accepted to Penn State Dickinson Law. There, he not only earned his law degree but also began working at a law firm and supporting the local school district — combining his passion for justice with his dedication to community.

Chris has remained active in leadership and community programs, consistently using his time and talents to uplift others. He is a man of intelligence, principle, and empathy. Though he is my younger brother, I have long looked up to him for the example he sets.

Chris has always had a great heart, and I believe the impact he has made — both personally and professionally — speaks volumes about his character.

In summary, Christopher Harris is a person of high moral character. He is a devoted brother, a dependable friend, and a thoughtful member of his community. I have no doubt that he will continue to contribute positively to the lives of those around him.

Sincerely,

Patrick C. Harris

## BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Attorney Reg. No. 325777

CHRISTOPHER LEE HARRIS.

Respondent:

(Cumberland County)

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I am this day serving the foregoing document upon all parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of Disciplinary Board Rules and Procedures § 89.22 (service by a participant).

First Class Mail and Electronic Mail as follows:

Christopher Lee Harris 160 South Hanover St., Apt. 1 Carlisle, PA 17013

clharris7160@gmail.com

Date: 10/24/2025

By: Kristin Wells

Kristin A. Wells, Disciplinary Counsel Attorney Registration No. 312080 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5800 P.O. Box 62675 Harrisburg, PA 17106 (717) 772-8572

#### **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I certify that this filling complies with the provisions of the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: Office of Disciplinary Course /
Signature: Mustin & Wills

Name: Knstin A. Wells

Attorney No. (if applicable): 31208 0