

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 9 DB 2025
Petitioner	:	
	:	
	:	
	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Reg. No. 85395
KATHRYN MARY WAKEFIELD,	:	
Respondent	:	(Allegheny County)

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Kathryn Mary Wakefield, you appear before the Disciplinary Board for the imposition of a Public Reprimand ordered by the Board on February 20, 2025. The Board further ordered that you be placed on probation for a period of one year, with the conditions that you comply with all provisions of Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15, and provide the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, on or before the fifth day of every third month, copies of the records that you are required to maintain pursuant to Rule 1.15(c). By letter dated February 20, 2025, the Board notified you of the disposition of this matter and further notified you of your opportunity to demand as of right the institution of formal charges within twenty days of the date of notification. You did not demand the institution of formal charges; therefore, you accept this public reprimand.

It is an unpleasant task to publicly reprimand one who has been granted the privilege of membership in the bar of the Commonwealth. Yet as repugnant as this task may be, it has been found necessary that you receive this public discipline.

Attorney Wakefield, the record demonstrates that you failed to keep separate, funds that were entrusted to you despite two or more persons claiming an interest in them. In September of 2020, you received \$10,000 related to a settlement agreement

and mutual release. These funds were to be held in escrow until receipt of evidence that real estate taxes had been satisfied. You deposited the funds into your operating account instead of an escrow account and thereafter released the funds without evidence that the taxes had been satisfied. When Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) investigated the matter, it discovered that you routinely commingled Rule 1.15 Funds with your own funds, failed to maintain required records and disregarded the record-keeping responsibilities imposed by RPC 1.15(c). ODC's investigation did not reveal that you intentionally converted any entrusted funds.

By your conduct, you violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct ("RPC"):

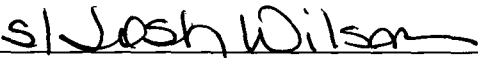
1. RPC 1.15(b) – A lawyer shall hold all Rule 1.15 Funds and property separate from the lawyer's own property. Such property shall be identified and appropriately safeguarded.
2. RPC 1.15(c)(2) and (4) – A lawyer shall maintain the following books and records for each Trust Account and for any other account in which Fiduciary funds are held pursuant to Rule 1.15(l): (2) check register or separately maintained ledger, which shall include the payee, date, purpose and amount of each check, withdrawal and transfer, the payor, date, and amount of each deposit, and the matter involved for each transaction; provided, however, that where an account is used to hold funds of more than one client, a lawyer shall also maintain an individual ledger for each trust client, showing the source, amount and nature of all funds received from or on behalf of the client, the description and amounts of charges or withdrawals, the names of all persons or entities to whom such funds were disbursed, and the dates of all deposits,

transfers, withdrawals and disbursements; and (4) a regular trial balance of the individual client ledgers shall be maintained. The total of the trial balance must agree with the control figure computed by taking the beginning balance, adding the total of monies received in trust for the client, and deducting the total of all moneys disbursed. On a monthly basis, a lawyer shall conduct a reconciliation for each fiduciary account. The reconciliation is not complete if the reconciled total cash balance does not agree with the total of the client balance listing. A lawyer shall preserve for a period of five years copies of all records and computations sufficient to prove compliance with this requirement.

3. RPC 1.15(f) – When in possession of funds or property in which two or more persons, one of whom may be the lawyer, claims an interest, the funds or property shall be kept separate by the lawyer until the dispute is resolved.

Attorney Wakefield, your conduct in this matter is public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record and shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at www.padisciplinaryboard.org.

It is the Board's duty to reprimand you for your misconduct. We note that you have no prior record of discipline. Please be aware that any subsequent violations on your part can only result in further discipline and more severe sanctions. We sincerely hope that you will conduct yourself in such a manner that future disciplinary action will be unnecessary.


Designated Member
The Disciplinary Board of the

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Administered by a designated panel of three Members of The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on Mach 27, 2025.