

FILED

Jun 12, 2025

Disciplinary
Board

Docket # 022

DISCIPLINARY BOARD
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re
MATTHEW PHILIP GOLDMAN,
Lawyer (Bar No. 54657).

Proceeding No. 24#00076
ODC File No(s). 24-01700
STIPULATION TO DISBARMENT

Under Rule 9.1 of the Washington Supreme Court's Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC), the following Stipulation to disbarment is entered into by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) of the Washington State Bar Association (Association) through disciplinary counsel Claire Carden and Respondent lawyer Matthew Philip Goldman.

Respondent understands that Respondent is entitled under the ELC to a hearing, to present exhibits and witnesses on Respondent's behalf, and to have a hearing officer determine the facts, misconduct and sanction in this case. Respondent further understands that Respondent is entitled under the ELC to appeal the outcome of a hearing to the Disciplinary Board, and, in certain cases, the Supreme Court. Respondent further understands that a hearing and appeal could result in an outcome more favorable or less favorable to Respondent. Respondent chooses to resolve this

proceeding now by entering into the following stipulation to facts, misconduct and sanction to avoid the risk, time, expense attendant to further proceedings.

I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

1. Respondent was admitted to practice law in the State of Washington on January 31, 2019.

2. Respondent is currently interim suspended from the practice of law in Washington.

II. STIPULATED FACTS

3. In April 2024, Respondent was charged with Online Sexual Corruption of a Child in the First Degree in violation of Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 163.433 and Luring a Minor in violation of ORS 167.057.

4. On July 31, 2024, Respondent pleaded guilty to Online Sexual Corruption of a Child in the First Degree.

5. Online Sexual Corruption of a Child in the First Degree (ORS 163.433) is a felony.

6. Online Sexual Corruption of a Child in the First Degree (ORS 163.433) is a crime of moral turpitude.

7. A person commits the crime of online sexual corruption of a child in the first degree if the person is 18 years of age or older, knowingly uses an online communication to solicit a child to engage in sexual contact or sexually explicit conduct, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of the person or another person, offers or agrees to physically meet the child, and intentionally takes a substantial step toward physically meeting with or encountering the child. ORS 163.433(1).

8. On July 31, 2024, the court dismissed the Luring a Minor charge.

9. On October 1, 2024, the court sentenced Respondent to five years of supervised

1 probation.

2 **III. STIPULATION TO MISCONDUCT**

3 10. By committing the crime of Online Sexual Corruption of a Minor in the First Degree,
4 Respondent violated RPC 8.4(b) and RPC 8.4(i).

5 **IV. PRIOR DISCIPLINE**

6 11. Respondent has no prior discipline.

7 **V. APPLICATION OF ABA STANDARDS**

8 12. The following American Bar Association Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions
9 (1991 ed. & Feb. 1992 Supp.) apply to Respondent's violation of RPC 8.4(b):

10 5.1 Failure to Maintain Personal Integrity

11 Absent aggravating or mitigating circumstances, upon application of the
12 factors set out in Standard 3.0, the following sanctions are generally appropriate
13 in cases involving commission of a criminal act that reflects adversely on the
14 lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, or in
15 cases with conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation:

16 5.11 Disbarment is generally appropriate when:

17 (a) a lawyer engages in serious criminal conduct a necessary element of
18 which includes intentional interference with the administration of justice,
19 false swearing, misrepresentation, fraud, extortion, misappropriation, or
20 theft; or the sale, distribution or importation of controlled substances; or
21 the intentional killing of another; or an attempt or conspiracy or solicitation
22 of another to commit any of these offenses; or

23 (b) a lawyer engages in any other intentional conduct involving dishonesty,
24 fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation that seriously adversely reflects on the
lawyer's fitness to practice.

5.12 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in
criminal conduct which does not contain the elements listed in Standard
5.11 and that seriously adversely reflects on the lawyer's fitness to practice.

5.13 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in
any other conduct that involves dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or
misrepresentation and that adversely reflects on the lawyer's fitness to
practice law.

5.14 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer engages in any other
conduct that reflects adversely on the lawyer's fitness to practice law.

13. Respondent acted knowingly in committing the crime of Online Sexual Corruption of

1 a Child in the First Degree.

2 14. Respondent caused actual injury by bringing disrepute to the legal profession.

3 15. The presumptive sanction for violating RPC 8.4(b) is suspension.

4 16. No ABA Standard applies directly to Respondent's violation of RPC 8.4(i); however,
5 the presumptive sanction for committing a felony involving moral turpitude is disbarment. In re
6 Disciplinary Proceeding of Day, 162 Wn.2d 527, 547, 173 P.3d 915 (2007).

7 17. Where there are multiple ethical violations, the "ultimate sanction imposed should at
8 least be consistent with the sanction for the most serious instance of misconduct among a number
9 of violations." In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Petersen, 120 Wn.2d 833, 854, 846 P.2d
10 1330 (1993) (quoting ABA Standards at 6).

11 18. The following aggravating factors apply under ABA Standard 9.22:

12 (b) dishonest or selfish motive.

13 19. The following mitigating factors apply under ABA Standard 9.32:

14 (a) absence of prior disciplinary record.

15 20. On balance the aggravating and mitigating factors do not require a departure from the
16 presumptive sanction of disbarment.

17 VI. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE

18 21. The parties stipulate that Respondent shall be disbarred.

19 VII. CONDITIONS OF REINSTATEMENT

20 22. Reinstatement from disbarment is conditioned on payment of costs and expenses, as
21 provided below.

22 VIII. COSTS AND EXPENSES

23 23. In light of Respondent's willingness to resolve this matter by stipulation at an early

1 stage of the proceedings, Respondent shall pay attorney fees and administrative costs of \$1,000
2 in accordance with ELC 13.9(i). The Association will seek a money judgment under ELC 13.9(l)
3 if these costs are not paid within 30 days of approval of this stipulation. Reinstatement from
4 disbarment is conditioned on payment of costs.

5 **IX. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT**

6 24. Respondent states that prior to entering into this Stipulation Respondent had an
7 opportunity to consult independent legal counsel regarding this Stipulation, that Respondent is
8 entering into this Stipulation voluntarily, and that no promises or threats have been made by ODC,
9 the Association, nor by any representative thereof, to induce the Respondent to enter into this
10 Stipulation except as provided herein.

11 25. Once fully executed, this stipulation is a contract governed by the legal principles
12 applicable to contracts, and may not be unilaterally revoked or modified by either party.

13 **X. LIMITATIONS**

14 26. This Stipulation is a compromise agreement intended to resolve this matter in
15 accordance with the purposes of lawyer discipline while avoiding further proceedings and the
16 expenditure of additional resources by the Respondent and ODC. Both the Respondent lawyer
17 and ODC acknowledge that the result after further proceedings in this matter might differ from
18 the result agreed to herein.

19 27. This Stipulation is not binding upon ODC or the respondent as a statement of all
20 existing facts relating to the professional conduct of the Respondent, and any additional existing
21 facts may be proven in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

22 28. This Stipulation results from the consideration of various factors by both parties,
23 including the benefits to both by promptly resolving this matter without the time and expense of

1 hearings, Disciplinary Board appeals, and Supreme Court appeals or petitions for review. As
2 such, approval of this Stipulation will not constitute precedent in determining the appropriate
3 sanction to be imposed in other cases; but, if approved, this Stipulation will be admissible in
4 subsequent proceedings against Respondent to the same extent as any other approved Stipulation.

5 29. Under ELC 9.1(d)(4), the Disciplinary Board and Supreme Court review a stipulation
6 based solely on the record agreed to by the parties. Under ELC 3.1(b), all documents that form
7 the record before the Board for its review become public information on approval of the
8 Stipulation by the Board, unless disclosure is restricted by order or rule of law

9 30. If this Stipulation is approved by the Disciplinary Board and Supreme Court, it will
10 be followed by the disciplinary action agreed to in this Stipulation. All notices required in the
11 Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct will be made. Respondent represents that, in addition
12 to Washington, Respondent also is admitted to practice law in the following jurisdictions, whether
13 current status is active, inactive, or suspended: Oregon.

14 31. If this Stipulation is not approved by the Disciplinary Board and Supreme Court, this
15 Stipulation will have no force or effect, and neither it nor the fact of its execution will be
16 admissible as evidence in the pending disciplinary proceeding, in any subsequent disciplinary
17 proceeding, or in any civil or criminal action.

1 WHEREFORE the undersigned being fully advised, adopt and agree to this Stipulation to
2 Disbarment as set forth above.

3 /s/Matthew P. Goldman

Dated: May 12, 2025

4 Matthew Philip Goldman, Bar No. 54657
5 Respondent

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Dated: May 15, 2025

7 Claire Carden, Bar No. 50590
8 Disciplinary Counsel
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