

SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT

In re Tracy

73 F.2d 628 (Vt. 1934) · No. 2021-080 · Decided July 20, 2021

SUMMARY

The Vermont Supreme Court approved a stipulated order governing the authority of a trustee appointed over William Tracy Carris's law practice after his license suspension. The order grants the trustee access to premises, client files, trust and title insurance accounts, and operating-account information, and requires Carris to cooperate with the trustee and comply with notice obligations under Administrative Order 9.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Vermont
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice; Beth Robinson, Associate Justice; Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice; Karen R. Carroll, Associate Justice; William D. Cohen, Associate Justice
JURISDICTION	Vermont
DECIDED	July 20, 2021
DOCKET	2021-080
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original-jurisdiction attorney-discipline proceeding in which the Court considered a stipulated order concerning the authority and responsibilities of a trustee appointed over respondent's law practice after respondent's license was suspended.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Vermont Supreme Court opinion and entry order; precedential value is not otherwise stated in the text.

TOPICS

[administrative law](#) [agency adjudication](#) [civil procedure](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[professional responsibility](#) [attorney discipline](#) [administrative law](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Court should accept and enter the parties' stipulated order defining the trustee's authority over respondent's law practice and respondent's obligations following suspension.

HOLDINGS

1. The Court accepted and entered the stipulated order governing Trustee F. Rendol Barlow's authority over respondent's law practice and imposing specified access, accounting, cooperation, and suspended-status notice obligations on respondent.
2. The trustee was granted express authority to access the law office and client materials, control client trust and title insurance accounts, resolve open title insurance matters, review operating-account transaction histories, and request account freezes; respondent was ordered to provide access, identify accounts and removed materials, provide accountings, cooperate with the trustee, and comply with suspended-status notice requirements.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

William Tracy Carris was licensed to practice law in Vermont, but his license had been suspended by the Supreme Court. The Court appointed F. Rendol Barlow as trustee over Carris's law practice, including responsibility for client property, files, trust accounts, and title insurance matters. The trustee and Carris submitted a stipulated order establishing access, accounting, cooperation, and notice obligations, to which Disciplinary Counsel did not object.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Court suspended William Tracy Carris's law license by order dated May 3, 2021, and appointed F. Rendol Barlow as trustee over Carris's law practice pursuant to Administrative Order 9. The trustee and Carris, through counsel, negotiated and submitted a stipulated order describing the trustee's authority and Carris's obligations. Disciplinary Counsel did not object, and the Supreme Court accepted and entered the proposed order.

DISPOSITION

other