

# SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

## In re Gantt, 305 Ga. 722

827 S.E.2d 683 (2019) · Decided April 29, 2019

### SUMMARY

The Georgia Supreme Court accepted Lakeisha Tennille Gantt’s petition for voluntary discipline arising from delays and inadequate communication in an adoption matter. The Court imposed a Review Board Reprimand for violations of Georgia Bar Rules 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5.

### CASE DETAILS

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT              | Supreme Court of Georgia                                                                                                                                                               |
| JURISDICTION       | Georgia                                                                                                                                                                                |
| DECIDED            | April 29, 2019                                                                                                                                                                         |
| DISPOSITION        | approved                                                                                                                                                                               |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE | Respondent attorney petitioned for voluntary discipline, requesting a Review Board Reprimand. The Supreme Court of Georgia accepted the petition and imposed a Review Board Reprimand. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW | The court reviewed the record to determine whether the requested voluntary discipline and recommended sanction were appropriate.                                                       |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE | published disciplinary opinion                                                                                                                                                         |
| PARTIES            | Lakeisha Tennille Gantt v. State Bar of Georgia                                                                                                                                        |

### TOPICS

adoption remedies family law

### PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics and professional responsibility attorney discipline adoption law

### QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the court should accept Gantt's petition for voluntary discipline based on her admitted violations of Georgia Bar Rules 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5.
- Whether a Review Board Reprimand was an appropriate sanction for the admitted misconduct.

### HOLDINGS

1. The court accepted Gantt's petition for voluntary discipline after reviewing the record and her admissions concerning violations of Rules 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5.
2. A Review Board Reprimand was the appropriate sanction for Gantt's negligent failure to act with reasonable diligence and communicate adequately in representing her client.

#### KEY QUOTATIONS

*"In acknowledging that she failed to timely perform the necessary work on the adoption, causing a significant delay in the proceedings, and failed to adequately communicate with the client, Gantt admits to violations of Rules 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5."* (at 723)

*"Having reviewed the record, we agree that a Review Board Reprimand is the appropriate sanction in this matter."* (at 725)

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In 2014, a client hired Gantt to handle an adoption matter and paid her more than \$3,700. Although Gantt initially stated that she would complete the paperwork before April 2015, the adoption was not completed until March 2018. During that period, she repeatedly failed to respond appropriately or at all to the client's communications and failed to complete paperwork necessary for interim steps, including work required for a home visit.

#### PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Gantt admitted that she delayed an adoption matter, failed to complete necessary work promptly, and failed to communicate adequately with her client. She admitted violations of Georgia Bar Rules 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5. The State Bar recommended acceptance of the petition and imposition of a Review Board Reprimand, which the court adopted.

#### DISPOSITION

approved

#### CASES CITED

- In the Matter of Gantt, 302 Ga. 3, 804 S.E.2d 336 (2017)
- In the Matter of Leslie, 300 Ga. 774, 798 S.E.2d 221 (2017)
- In the Matter of Jones, 299 Ga. 736, 791 S.E.2d 774 (2016)

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