



DISCIPLINE CASE *DIGEST*

Case 07-05

Member:	George Joseph Orle, Q.C.
Jurisdiction:	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Called to the Bar:	June 30, 1977
Particulars of Charges:	Professional Misconduct <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Breach of Rule 5-63(3) and (4) [failing to provide a written response to the Law Society]
Date of Hearing:	June 27, 2007
Panel:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Patricia L. Fraser (Chair)▪ J.F. Reeh Taylor, Q.C.▪ Brian A. Pauls
Disposition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reprimand▪ Costs of \$1,500.00
Counsel:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Joan Holmstrom for The Law Society of Manitoba▪ Member Unrepresented

Failure to Respond

Facts

Mr. Orle was retained to represent his client in a domestic matter. Opposing counsel submitted a complaint to the Society regarding Mr. Orle's conduct, and specifically, Mr. Orle's failure to deal with one aspect of the matter in a timely manner and to respond to her inquiries. The Society wrote to Mr. Orle seeking his written response to the concerns raised, however, he failed to respond to the Society within the time prescribed.

Plea

Mr. Orle entered a plea of guilty to the charges.

Decision and Comments

The panel noted that failure by members to respond to the Society could seriously affect the Law Society's ability to enforce its mandate of protecting the public. Accordingly, any breach of the rules requiring a response to the Society should result in formal discipline being imposed and that the penalty should serve as deterrence for the member and as a reminder to other members of

the profession of their obligations. The panel found Mr. Orle guilty of professional misconduct based on his admission to the charge.

Penalty

The panel noted that this was Mr. Orle's first formal charge in 30 years of practice and the panel accepted a joint recommendation made by the Society and Mr. Orle and ordered that:

- (a) Mr. Orle be reprimanded for his conduct; and
- (b) Mr. Orle pay \$1,500.00 to the Society as a contribution towards the costs associated with the investigation, prosecution and hearing of the matter.