

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT****Arkansas Supreme Court
Committee on Professional Conduct**

IN RE: WILLIAM ASA HUTCHINSON, III
Arkansas Bar No. 2001115
Case No. CPC-2023-009

FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Findings and Order is based arose after Respondent, William Asa Hutchinson, III (“Hutchinson”) was arrested on or about January 13, 2023, on criminal felony charges.

1. In October 2023, in Benton County case CR-2023-131, Hutchinson entered a negotiated plea of guilty on the charges of possession of a controlled substance -Class D felony, and driving while intoxicated, second offense – misdemeanor. The refusal to submit to chemical test was dismissed.

2. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §16-93-303 (“Act 346”), without making a finding of guilt or entering a judgment of guilt, the court deferred further proceedings and placed Hutchinson on thirty-six (36) months’ probation on the possession charge and ten (10) days jail time on the DWI charge.

3. A certified copy of the Benton County plea documents were entered into evidence without objection.

4. The Office of Professional Conduct (“OPC”) moved without objection to dismiss the violation of Arkansas Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(b) and such was granted.

5. The matter proceeded on the Procedures of the Arkansas Supreme Court Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys at Law (“Procedures”) §15.C.

6. The OPC argued Procedures §15.C mandated that the Committee Panel had to initiate disbarment.

7. The Respondent argued Procedures §15.C was not mandatory.

Upon consideration of the Amended Formal Complaint and attached exhibit materials, the response to it, the arguments of counsel, and testimony presented, and other matters before it, and the Procedures of the Arkansas Supreme Court Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys at Law-, Panel D of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

It is the unanimous decision of Panel D of the Committee on Professional Conduct that Procedures §15.C is mandatory and therefore disbarment proceedings be initiated against Respondent William Asa Hutchinson III.

There shall be no imposition of an interim suspension in this matter, nor are there any costs and/or fees awarded against Respondent. The panel unanimously expressed frustration that it was compelled to order the initiation of disbarment proceedings under the circumstances of this case.

WHEREFORE, it is the unanimous decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel D, that disbarment proceedings be initiated against Respondent William Asa Hutchinson III, Arkansas Bar Number 2001115. Furthermore, no costs or fees are assessed against the Respondent.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT



Walter Whit Barton, Panel D- Hearing Chair



Date