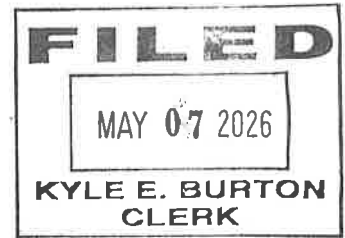


**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
PANEL B**



IN RE: Kedron J. Benham, Respondent Attorney
 Arkansas Bar No. 2007075
 Case No. CPC-2025-040

CONSENT FINDINGS & ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Consent Order is premised, involving respondent attorney Kedron J. Benham (Benham) of Washington County, Arkansas, arose from information brought to the attention of the Committee on Professional Conduct by [REDACTED]

1. Benham is licensed by the Supreme Court of Arkansas and has been assigned Arkansas Bar No. 2007075.

2. [REDACTED] has been a recipient of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) since 2015.

3. [REDACTED] first retained Benham in 2015 to file her DACA renewal.

4. Benham successfully filed renewals for [REDACTED]'s DACA in 2016, 2018, and 2019.

5. On or about March 9, 2021, [REDACTED] paid Benham \$230 to renew her DACA before its December 9, 2021, expiration.

6. On or about July 16, 2021, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas held that the DACA policy is illegal. Pursuant to this holding, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) halted the processing of new DACA applications. Because DACA recipients who obtained status before the injunction were granted a temporary stay, USCIS was permitted to continue processing DACA renewals. Order of Permanent Injunction, *State of Texas, et al., v. United States of America, et al.*, 1:18-CV-00068, (S.D. Tex., July 16, 2021).

7. On or about September 16, 2021, [REDACTED] made note that she had not received an application receipt confirmation from USCIS. [REDACTED]'s father requested a status update from Benham. Benham assured [REDACTED] that her case was being handled.

8. On or about December 9, 2021, [REDACTED]'s DACA and work authorization expired.

9. In March 2022, Benham informed [REDACTED]'s father that [REDACTED] was not eligible for DACA because USCIS was no longer accepting new applicants pursuant to the July 16, 2021, injunction. [REDACTED]'s father reminded Benham that [REDACTED] was not a new applicant and had retained Benham to renew her DACA.

10. On or about March 23, 2022, Benham informed [REDACTED] that her renewal was not timely filed because he mistakenly believed her to be a new applicant. Benham assured [REDACTED] that he would file her application and rectify his mistake.

11. In November 2022, [REDACTED] requested a tracking number for her application on multiple occasions. Benham eventually provided one, but the tracking information indicated that the package had not yet left Benham's office.

12. In February 2023, [REDACTED]'s DACA renewal was sent to USCIS by mail.

13. In April 2023, [REDACTED] received a receipt confirmation from USCIS.

14. In April 2023, USCIS notified [REDACTED] that because she filed her renewal after her DACA expired, she was considered a new applicant and USCIS would no longer accept new applications for DACA.

15. On or about September 13, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas maintained a stay of the July 16, 2021, order for recipients who received their status prior to July 16, 2021. Pursuant to these rulings, USCIS will not process initial DACA requests, but it will recognize renewals for DACA recipients who received their status prior to July 16, 2021.

Memorandum and Order, *State of Texas, et al., v. United States of America, et al.*, 1:18-CV-00068, (S.D. Tex., September 13, 2023).

16. On or about May 28, 2024, [REDACTED] submitted a grievance to the Office of Professional Conduct (OPC).

17. On or about September 8, 2025, OPC sent an email to Benham, which requested a response by September 22, 2025.

18. On or about September 22, 2025, Benham submitted a response wherein he acknowledged his failure to timely file [REDACTED]'s DACA renewal. Benham admitted that he delayed the filing of [REDACTED]'s application because he mistakenly categorized her case as an initial DACA request rather than a renewal.

19. Benham admitted that on February 20, 2023, he sent [REDACTED]'s application to USCIS with a letter attached requesting USCIS to accept [REDACTED]'s filing as a renewal because of his mistake.

20. Benham admitted that he was not transparent about the tracking status of [REDACTED]'s application.

21. Benham admitted that he provided tracking information to [REDACTED] before the package had been accepted by FedEx.

22. On or about December 31, 2025, OPC filed a Formal Complaint on Benham for the above-referenced conduct.

Following Respondent Attorney's receipt of the formal complaint, the attorney entered into discussion with the Executive Director which has resulted in an agreement to discipline by consent pursuant to Section 20.B of the Arkansas Supreme Court Procedures Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys at Law (2012). Upon consideration of the formal complaint and attached

exhibits, admissions made by the respondent attorney, the terms of the written consent, the approval of Panel C of the Committee on Professional Conduct, and the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct, the Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

A. **Arkansas Rule 1.1** requires that a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Benham's conduct, as set forth in the formal complaint, violated **Rule 1.1 Competence**, when he mischaracterized [REDACTED]'s case as a new application rather than a renewal despite his previous representation of [REDACTED]. This error prejudiced [REDACTED]'s DACA renewal when Benham delayed the filing of [REDACTED]'s renewal, resulting in the expiration of her status.

B. **Arkansas Rule 1.3** provides that a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client. Benham's conduct, as set forth in the formal complaint, violated **Rule 1.3 Diligence**, when he delayed the filing of [REDACTED]'s DACA renewal and failed to promptly communicate with [REDACTED].

C. **Arkansas Rule 1.4(a)(3)** requires that a lawyer keep clients reasonably informed about the status of the matter. Benham's conduct, as set forth in the formal complaint, violated **Rule 1.4(a)(3) Communication**, when he failed to keep [REDACTED] reasonably informed about the status of her case.

D. **Arkansas Rule 8.4(c)** provides that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. Benham's conduct, as set forth in the formal complaint, violated **Rule 8.4(c) Dishonesty/Misrepresentation**, when he was not transparent with [REDACTED] about the status of her DACA application and when he deceptively provided tracking information to create the impression that the application had been sent.

WHEREFORE, in accordance with the consent to discipline presented by the Executive Director, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional

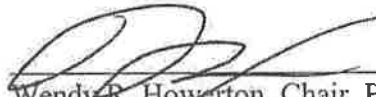
Conduct that Respondent Kedron J. Benham Arkansas Bar No. 2007075, be, and hereby is, REPRIMANDED for his conduct in this matter.

The Panel further assesses a fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), costs of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00), and orders the Respondent to pay restitution to [REDACTED] in the amount of Two Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$230.00).

The Panel further orders Benham to complete six (6) hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses in the following topics: Ethics and Professionalism, Practice Management, and Immigration Law.

The fine, restitution, and costs assessed herein shall be payable by cashier's check or money order payable to the "Clerk, Arkansas Supreme Court" delivered to the Office of Professional Conduct within thirty (30) days of the date this Findings and Order is filed of record with the Clerk of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT



Wendy R. Howerton, Chair, Panel B

5/6/26

Date