# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS IN THE MATTER OF SANDRA L. FARMER

MISC. DOCKET NO. 97- 9228

#### **ORDER**

On this day, this Court considered the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation as Attorney and Counselor at Law of Sandra L. Farmer, together with the Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel to the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation as Attorney and Counselor at Law of Sandra L. Farmer. This Court has reviewed the Motion and Response and finds that each meets the requirements of Part X of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. In conformity with Part X, Section 10.02, of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, the Court considers the detailed statement of professional misconduct contained within the Response of Chief Disciplinary Counsel to be deemed conclusively established for all purposes. The Court, after being advised that the acceptance of the resignation is in the best interest of the public and the profession, concludes that the following Order is appropriate.

IT IS ORDERED that the law license of Sandra L. Farmer, of Houston, Texas, State Bar card number 06825000, which was previously issued by this Court, is cancelled and his name is dropped and deleted from the list of persons licensed to practice law in Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Sandra L. Farmer, is permanently enjoined and prohibited from practicing law in the State of Texas, from holding himself out as an attorney at law, from performing any legal services for others, from giving legal advice to others, from accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, from appearing as counsel or in any representative capacity in any proceeding in any Texas court or before any Texas administrative body (whether state, county, municipal, or other), and from holding himself out to others or using his name in any manner in conjunction with the words "Attorney at Law," "Counselor at Law," or "Lawyer."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Sandra L. Farmer, within thirty days after the date on which this Order is signed by the Court, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every Texas court in which Sandra L. Farmer may have any client matter pending, advising each court of his resignation, of the style and cause number of any matter pending in that court, and of the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) he is representing in that court. Sandra L. Farmer is ORDERED to send copies of all these notifications to the Office of the General Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas, 78711.

By the Court, en banc, in chambers, on this the  $\underline{A + \underline{A}}$  day of

January

Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice

Raul A. Gonzalez, Justice

Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

Craig T. Enoch, Justice

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Rose Spector, Justice

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Priscilla R. Owen, Justice

mans ns A. Baker, Justice James Gregg Abbott, Justice

Deborah G. Hankinson, Justice

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Misc Docket No. 97- 9228

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



#### Office of the General Counsel

December 18, 1997

Mr. John T. Adams, Clerk Supreme Court of Texas P.O. Box 12248 Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Sandra L. Farmer

Dear Mr. Adams:

Pursuant to Part X of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, please find enclosed herewith the following:

(A) Original Order and one copy of Resignation for the Court's signature.

I will appreciate your bringing this to the Court's attention. Pursuant to Rule 10.02 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, once the required ten (10) day timeframe has passed, I will notify the Court, in writing, of the filing of any Motion to Withdraw Resignation.

Sincerely Hometa J. Kett Romeka J. Kelley Legal Assistant to JEANNETTE M. DUER Assistant General Counsel

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Enclosures RJK/

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Office of the General Counsel

December 15, 1997

Mr. John T. Adams, Clerk Supreme Court of Texas P.O. Box 12248 Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Sandra L. Farmer

Dear Mr. Adams:

Pursuant to Part X of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, please find enclosed herewith the following:

- (a) Original executed Motion for Acceptance of Resignation as Attorney and Counselor at Law for the above-referenced attorney.
- (b) Original and two (2) copies of the Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel to Motion for Acceptance of Resignation as Attorney and Counselor at Law for the above-referenced attorney; and
- (c) Permanent State Bar Card and law license (or affidavit stating whereabouts of either item) for the above-referenced attorney.
- (d) Original Order of Resignation for the Court's signature.

I will appreciate your bringing this to the Court's attention. Pursuant to Rule 10.02 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, once the required ten (10) day timeframe has passed, I will notify the Court, in writing, of the filing of any Motion to Withdraw Resignation.

Please return a file-stamped copy of the Response to our office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely, annette

JEANNETTE M. DUER Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures JMD/rjk

#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS MOTION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AS ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

OF

#### SANDRA LYNN FARMER

NOW COMES your Applicant, Sandra Lynn Farmer, and hereby resigns as an Attorney and Counselor at Law in the State of Texas; and hereby submits to the Court his resignation as an Attorney and Counselor at Law; and prays that the Court accept said resignation.

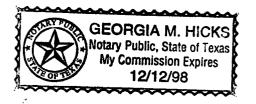
Attached hereto is the License and permanent State Bar card issued by this Court to the Applicant, Sandra Lynn Farmer, as an Attorney and Counselor at Law on May 4, 1990. Said License and permanent State Bar card are hereby surrendered by the Applicant.

Your applicant is voluntarily resigning and withdrawing from the practice of law; Applicant does so in lieu of discipline for professional misconduct; and Applicant prays that his name be dropped and deleted from the list of persons licensed to practice law in Texas; and that his resignation be accepted.

Sandra Lynn Farmer 06825000

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to be the me, by the said Sandra Lynn Farmer this the Oth day of Decem ens in and for **IBLTC** the State of Texas

Sandra Lynn Farmer 6406 Coghill Pasadena, Texas 77505 CF6-17.PRI



# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AS ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

#### OF

#### SANDRA L. FARMER

### TO THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS:

Pursuant to Part X of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Steven W. Young, Interim Chief Disciplinary Counsel, hereby files this response on behalf of the State Bar of Texas, acting by and through the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, to the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation in Lieu of Discipline filed by Sandra L. Farmer, and would show as follows:

#### I.

The acceptance by the Court of the resignation of Sandra L. Farmer is in the best interest of the public and the profession.

#### П.

Disciplinary actions are currently pending against Sandra L. Farmer ("Respondent"), which are: (1) Cause No. H0079613206, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04D Grievance Committee, State Bar of Texas (2) Cause No. H0059612563, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04E Grievance Committee (3) Cause No. H0079613052, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04E

Grievance Committee. (4) Cause No. H0129614488, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04E Grievance Committee. (5) Cause No. H0059715668, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (6) Cause No. H0049715455, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (7) Cause No. H0049715525, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (8) Cause No. H0049715447, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (9) Cause No. H0059715599, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (10) Cause No. H0039715193, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (11) Cause No. H0039715229, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (12) Cause No. H0039715230, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (13) Cause No. H0039715231, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (14) Cause No. H0049715275, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (15) Cause No. H0049715276, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (16) Cause No. H0069715878, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04I Grievance Committee. (17) Cause No.

H0109613904, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary
Panel of District 04J Grievance Committee. (18) Cause No. H0119614208, styled State
Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04H Grievance
Committee. (19) Cause No. H0049612394, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L.
Farmer, before the Evidentiary Panel of District 04C Grievance Committee. (20) Cause
No. H0099613770, styled State Bar of Texas v. Sandra L. Farmer, before the
Evidentiary Panel of District 04H Grievance Committee.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0079613206 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for her actions relating to the complaint filed by Michael Courtney. On or about February 16, 1996, Respondent was retained by Michael Courtney ("Courtney") for a Motion to Modify Child Support on Courtney's behalf. Respondent charged Courtney \$600.00 to file a Motion to Modify Child Support. Courtney was neglected and Respondent failed to return numerous phone calls for information about the legal matter. On or about January 28, 1997, Respondent received notice of a State Bar complaint filed against her by Michael Courtney. Said notice directed Respondent to provide a written response thereto by or on about February 27, 1997. Respondent wholly failed to respond to said notice. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Courtney complaint violated Rules 1.01(b), 1.03, 8.01(b) and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0059612563 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for her actions relating to the complaint filed by Terry Mohr ("Mohr"). On or about October 2, 1995, Respondent was retained by Mohr for a divorce matter. Mohr made numerous phone calls to Respondent that were never answered or returned. On or about January 5, 1996,

Mohr went to Respondent's office and then Respondent told Mohr that she would proceed on the case and that Mohr should anticipate going to court by the end of March 1996. Respondent neglected Mohr's legal matter, failed to pursue Mohr's objectives for ten months, failed to keep Mohr informed about the legal matter, and failed to comply with Mohr's requests for information about the matter. Respondent misrepresented the facts of the legal matter to Mohr by telling Mohr a lawsuit had been filed and that Mohr's husband had been served, when in fact that had not been done. On or about May 21, 1996, Respondent received notice of the above-referenced complaint that directed Respondent to provide a written response thereto by or on about June 20, 1996. Respondent wholly failed to respond to said notice. On or about October 15, 1996, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena commanding Respondent to appear, testify, and produce the entire client file in the matter at the District 4-E Grievance Hearing on October 24, 1996. Respondent wholly failed to appear at the hearing and failed to produce the client file in response to said subpoena. Respondent tried to discourage Mohr from going to the State Bar grievance hearing in this matter. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Courtney complaint violated Rules 1.01(b), 1.02(a), 1.03, 8.01(b), 8.04(a)(1), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0079613052 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Mary Reynolds ("Reynolds"). On or about November 15, 1995, Respondent was retained by Reynolds for a divorce matter. A default decree of divorce was entered on March 19, 1996. Reynolds had received no notice from the Respondent about when the hearing or trial was set. Reynolds attempted to contact the

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Respondent throughout the time Respondent was retained and Reynolds never had a response from the Respondent. Respondent neglected Reynolds's legal matter, failed to pursue Reynolds's objectives, failed to keep Reynolds informed about the legal matter, and failed to notify Reynolds of a trial date, resulting in Reynolds's divorce by default. Respondent billed Reynolds for a Counter Petition and then failed to file the Counter Petition. On or about July 22, 1996, Respondent received notice of the above-referenced complaint that directed Respondent to provide a written response thereto by or on about August 21, 1996. Respondent wholly failed to respond to said notice. On or about October 15, 1996, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena commanding Respondent to appear, testify, and produce the entire client file in the matter at the District 4-E Grievance Hearing on October 24, 1996. Respondent wholly failed to appear at the hearing and failed to produce the client file in response to said subpoena. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Reynolds complaint violated Rules 1.01(b), 1.02(a), 1.03, 8.04(a)(1), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0079613206 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for her actions relating to the complaint filed by Joanna L. Hicks ("Hicks"). On or about January 15, 1996, Respondent was retained by Hicks to obtain child support. Hicks paid Respondent \$300.00 to get the case started. For seven months after Respondent was retained, Respondent only contacted Hicks once. Hick tried to contact Respondent many times after, but was not successful. Hick went to Respondent's office one afternoon without an appointment and was told by the secretary that another client was with the Respondent. Hicks sat in the waiting room for quite sometime and once the Respondent came out,

Respondent turned off the lights and said she was going home. Respondent refused to talk to Hicks. Respondent neglected Hicks's legal matter, failed to pursue Hicks's objectives, failed to keep Hicks informed about the legal matter, and failed to comply with Hicks's requests for information about the legal matter. On or about July 31, 1996, Respondent received notice of the above-referenced complaint that directed Respondent to provide a written response thereto by or on about August 30, 1996. Respondent wholly failed to respond to said notice. On or about October 15, 1996, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena commanding Respondent to appear, testify, and produce the entire client file in the matter at the District 4-E Grievance Hearing on October 24, 1996. Respondent wholly failed to appear at the hearing and failed to produce the client file in response to said subpoena. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Hicks complaint violated Rules 1.01(b), 1.02(a), 1.03, 8.04(a)(1), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0059715668 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for her actions relating to the complaint filed by Marlene F. Schlang ("Schlang"). On or about February 13, 1996, Respondent was retained by Schlang for a divorce matter. Thereafter Respondent neglected the legal matter by failing to pursue Schlang's divorce, failed to keep Schlang informed about the status of her legal matter by failing to return telephone calls from her and failed to return Schlang's file to her upon demand. On or about May 21, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Schlang. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent has wholly failed to respond to the complaint.

On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997, and to produce Schlang's client file. Respondent has wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and has not asserted a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Schlang complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(b) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0049715455 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Mianna Slovacek ("Slovacek"). On or about March 27, 1996, Respondent was retained by Slovacek for divorce and Protective Order matters. Respondent neglected the matter by failing to get the Protective Order served on Slovacek's husband. On or about May 12, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Slovacek. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent has wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997. Respondent has wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and has not asserted a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Slovacek complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1)(2), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0049715525 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by John Cunningham ("Cunningham"). On or about

December 7, 1996, Respondent was retained by Cunningham for a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy matter. Respondent has neglected the matter by failing to file a plan or summary within the required time after filing the original petition. Respondent refused to keep Cunningham reasonably informed about the status of the legal matter by failing to return his telephone calls for information. Respondent failed to withdraw as counsel and continued to contact creditors after being terminated by Cunningham. On or about May 12, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Cunningham. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to Cunningham. Respondent has wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Cunningham complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.01(b)(2), 1.03(a), 1.15(a)(3), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0049715447 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Criscelda Escobar ("Escobar"). On or about January 17, 1997, Respondent was retained by Escobar for a paternity agreement, child support and a visitation agreement. On or about May 12, 1997, Respondent, Sandra Farmer, received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Escobar. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent has wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about July 03, 1997,

Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997, and to produce Escobar's client file. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Escobar complaint violated Rules 8.01(a), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action **Cause No. H0059715599** seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Julie L. Roberson ("Roberson"). On or about October 23, 1995, Respondent was retained by Roberson for a divorce matter. Thereafter Respondent failed to keep Roberson informed about the status of her legal matter by failing to return telephone calls from Roberson, and failing to notify her of a Court date in her case. On or about May 22, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Roberson. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997. Respondent has wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Roberson complaint violated Rules 1.03(a), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0039715193 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Suzette R. Kelly ("Kelly"). On or about September

9, 1996, Respondent was retained by Kelly for a divorce matter. Thereafter Respondent neglected Kelly's legal matter by not filing any documents in the Courts, and failed to keep Kelly reasonably informed about the status of the legal matter, and refused to answer several telephone calls to answer her questions regarding the legal matter. On or about April 11, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Kelly. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about April 11, 1997, respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent to produce Kelly's client file to the State Bar Grievance Committee by on or about May 13, 1997. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997, and to produce Kelly's client file. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Kelly complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0039715229 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Teresa T. Joseph ("Joseph"). On or about December 5, 1996, Respondent was retained by Joseph for a divorce matter, which was completed. Thereafter Respondent refused to turn over Joseph's documents to her. On or about April 11, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against

Respondent by Joseph. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997, and to produce Joseph's client file. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply.

On or about December 28, 1995, and before the making and filing of this complaint, Respondent received discipline in the form of a Private Reprimand for failing to respond to a State Bar complaint and failing to obey a State Bar subpoena. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Joseph complaint violated Rules 1.15(d), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0039715230 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by John A. Henry ("Henry"). On or about June 20, 1996, Respondent was retained by Henry for a divorce matter. Thereafter Respondent neglected Henry's divorce matter by not working on the matter and failing to appear in Court, causing Henry to receive a default judgment against him. Respondent had failed to keep Henry informed about the status of the legal matter and has refused to return phone calls for information from Henry. On or about April 11, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Henry. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about April 11, 1997, respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent to produce Henry's client file

to the State Bar Grievance Committee by on or about May 13, 1997. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997, and to produce Henry's client file. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Henry complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 1.03(b) 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0039715231 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Lois A. Haney ("Haney"). On or about December 26, 1996, Respondent was retained by Haney for a divorce matter. Thereafter Respondent neglected Haney's divorce matter by not working on the matter for some three months. Respondent failed to keep Haney informed about the status of the legal matter and refused to return phone calls for information from Haney. On or about April 11, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Haney. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent to produce Haney's client file to the State Bar Grievance Committee by on or about May 13, 1997. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent

the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997, and to produce Haney's client file. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Haney complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0049715275 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Rhonda Godfrey ("Godfrey"). On or about May 21, 1996, Respondent was retained by Godfrey for a child support and an estate matter. Thereafter Respondent neglected Godfrey's child support matter by failing to prepare his child support papers. Respondent has failed to keep Godfrey informed about the status of the legal matter and has refused to return phone calls for information from the Godfrey. On or about April 18, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Godfrey. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Godfrey complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0049715276 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Stephen J. Malone ("Malone"). On or

about January 27, 1997, Respondent was retained by Malone a divorce and custody matter. Respondent advised Malone to go to Louisiana and illegally take his child and bring the child back to Texas. Thereafter Respondent neglected Malone's divorce matter by not working on the matter. Respondent has failed to keep Malone informed about the status of the legal matter and has refused to return phone calls for information from him. On or about April 21, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Malone. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about April 21, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent to produce Malone's client file to the State Bar Grievance Committee by on or about May 20, 1997. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. On or about July 03, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent's appearance before the Grievance Committee on July 15, 1997, and to produce Malone's client file. Respondent wholly failed to comply with said subpoena and did not assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to comply. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Malone complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.02(c), 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 8.01(a), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0069715878 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Kenneth Hedge ("Hedge"). On or about September 8, 1995, Respondent was retained by Hedge for a child support matter. Thereafter Respondent neglected Hedge's legal matter by failing to pursue Hedge's legal matter.

Respondent has failed to keep Hedge informed about the status of the legal matter and has refused to return phone calls for information from him. On or about June 26, 1997, Respondent received notice of the State Bar complaint filed against Respondent by Hedge. Said notice provided Respondent 30 days in which to provide a written response to the complaint. Respondent wholly failed to respond to the complaint. On or about September 11, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar Subpoena (Duces Tecum) commanding Respondent to produce Hedge's client file to the State Bar Grievance Committee by on or about September 18, 1997. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Hedge complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.02(b(1), 1.03(a), 8.01(a), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0109613904 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Debra L. Cole ("Cole"). On or about November 16, 1995, Respondent was retained by Cole for a child custody matter. On or about October 31, 1996, Respondent received notice of a State Bar complaint filed against her by Cole. Said notice directed Respondent to provide a written response thereto by on or about December 02, 1996. On or about October 31, 1996, Respondent received a State Bar subpoena commanding Respondent to provide copies of certain documents relating to Respondent's representation of Cole to the State Bar Grievance Committee by on or about November 28, 1996. Respondent wholly failed to respond to said notice, failed to comply with the subpoena, and did not assert a privilege or other legal ground for failing to do so. Respondent neglected Cole's legal matter by failing to prosecute her case. Respondent failed to keep Cole reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter by failing to promptly

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comply with her requests for information. Respondent failed to return unearned legal fees to the Cole. On or about February 21, 1997, Respondent received a State Bar subpoena commanding Respondent to appear and produce certain documents to the Grievance committee on or about March 4, 1997. Respondent wholly failed to appear and produce the documents in compliance with the subpoena, and failed to assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to do so. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Cole complaint violated Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), 8.01(b)(2 counts), and 8.04(a)(8)(2 counts) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

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Disciplinary action Cause No. H0119614208 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Donna Nibarger ("Nibarger"). On or about June 21, 1996, Respondent was retained by Nibarger for a divorce and a civil matter. Respondent failed to keep Nibarger reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter by failing to promptly comply with her requests for information. On or about December 17, 1996, Respondent received notice of a State Bar complaint filed against her Nibarger. Said notice directed Respondent to provide a written response thereto by on or about January 16, 1997. Respondent wholly failed to respond to said notice. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Nibarger complaint violated Rules 8.01(b), and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0049612394 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Sherrie Rogers ("Rogers"). On or about January 15, 1996, Respondent was retained by Rogers for a child custody matter. Respondent thereafter failed to perform any meaningful service in pursuit of Rogers's legal matter.

Respondent failed to respond and/or provide information to Rogers's telephone calls regarding the status of her case. Respondent failed to respond and failed to provide information to Rogers's letter regarding the status of her case. Respondent failed to respond to Rogers's request for a refund for fees paid to Respondent. Respondent was notified of the complaint by the State Bar of Texas. Over the course of the investigatory process, Respondent failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority. Respondent testified to the grievance committee that she had sent Rogers a refund of her money (\$500.00) in February 1996, when in fact she did not do so until after the grievance committee meeting held on August 7, 1996. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the Rogers complaint violated Rules 1.03(a) and 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Disciplinary action Cause No. H0099613770 seeks discipline of Sandra L. Farmer for actions relating to the complaint filed by Laura French ("French"). On or about August 9, 1996, Respondent was retained by French for a divorce matter. On or about October 3, 1996, Respondent received notice of a State Bar complaint filed against her by French. Said notice directed Respondent to provide a written response thereto by on or about November 2, 1996. On or about October 3, 1996, Respondent received a State Bar subpoena commanding Respondent to provide copies of certain documents relating to Respondent's representation of French to the State Bar Grievance Committee by on or about October 30. 1996. Respondent wholly failed to respond to said notice, failed to comply with the subpoena, and did not assert a privilege or other legal ground for failing to do so.

Respondent neglected French's legal matter by failing to prosecute her case. Respondent failed to keep French reasonably informed about the status of her legal matter by failing to promptly comply with her requests for information. On or about December 5, 1996, Respondent received a State Bar subpoena commanding Respondent to appear and produce certain documents to the Grievance committee on or about December 18, 1996. Respondent wholly failed to appear and produce the documents in compliance with the subpoena, and failed to assert a privilege or other legal grounds for failing to do so. Respondents' conduct as set forth in the French complaint violated Rules 8.01(b)(2 counts) and 8.04(a)(8)(2 counts) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

In view of Sandra L. Farmer's execution on or about December 10, 1997, of her resignation as an attorney and counselor at law, and in anticipation of the Court's acceptance of her resignation, the Interim Chief Disciplinary Counsel does not anticipate going forward with the pending Disciplinary Actions and intends to nonsuit the Disciplinary Actions upon entry of an Order by the Supreme Court of Texas deleting Sandra L. Farmer from the list of persons licensed to practice law in the State of Texas.

# Respectfully submitted,

Steven W. Young Interim Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Jeannette M. Duer Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

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JEANNETTE M. DUER State Bar No. 00793645

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on the 15th day of December, 1997, a true and correct copy of the Response of the Interim Chief Disciplinary Counsel to the Resignation of Sandra L. Farmer was delivered to Sandra L. Farmer, Respondent, by certified mail.

JEANNETTE M. DUER

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