

**In the
Supreme Court of Indiana**

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
THE HONORABLE)
)
SABRINA R. BELL)
)
JUDGE OF)
)
CRAWFORD CIRCUIT COURT)

Cause No: 22S-JD-148

**NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF INVESTIGATION AND REQUEST TO TERMINATE
SUSPENSION**

The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications (“Commission”), by its Counsel, Adrienne L. Meiring, hereby notifies the Court that the Honorable Sabrina R. Bell (“Respondent”), Judge of Crawford Circuit Court, has resigned her judicial office as of July 15, 2022, prompting the Commission to close the pending investigation based on other agreed terms between the parties. The Commission is now requesting that the Court terminate Respondent’s current suspension as moot. In support of this request, the Commission,states as follows:

1. On May 12, 2022, the Commission filed a Notice of Criminal Charges and Request for Suspension requesting that Respondent be suspended with pay due to an Information had been filed against Respondent for one count of Domestic Battery in the Presence of a Child, a Level 6 felony, under cause number 13C01-2205-F5-39 in Crawford County, Indiana.
2. On May 12, 2022, the Court suspended Respondent with pay pursuant to Indiana Admission and Discipline Rule 25(V)(A). The suspension was ordered effective until further order of the Court.

3. Admission and Discipline Rule 25(V)(A) provides that:

A judicial officer shall be suspended with pay by the Supreme Court... upon the filing of an indictment or information charging the judicial officer in any court in the United States with a crime punishable as a felony under the laws of Indiana or the United States.

4. Based on the allegations against Respondent, an investigation was opened by the Commission under QC05-22-004.
5. Respondent and the Commission subsequently entered an agreement whereby Respondent would submit her resignation on July 15, 2022, agree to never serve as a judicial officer in Indiana in the future, and voluntarily relinquish her law license for at least 150 days by going on inactive status through the Indiana Office of Admissions and Continuing Education. (*See attached Exhibit A*).
6. Respondent submitted her resignation to the Governor's office making her resignation of her judicial office effective immediately, that being, July 15, 2022. Further, Respondent's law license status is now listed as inactive on the Indiana Roll of Attorneys.
7. Given the terms of the agreement and Respondent's submission of her resignation to the Governor's office, the Commission has closed the aforementioned investigation (QC05-22-004) and requests that Respondent's current suspension from her judicial office be terminated as moot.

WHEREFORE, the Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications has closed its investigation of Respondent and requests that the Court terminate the current suspension of Respondent from her position as Judge of Crawford Circuit Court, given Respondent has resigned her position and the issue of future proceedings is now moot.

Respectfully submitted,

7-25-22
DATE

Adrienne L. Meiring
Adrienne L. Meiring
Counsel to the Commission
Atty. No. 18414-45

7-25-22
DATE

[Signature]
Larry D. Newman
Staff Attorney to the Commission
Atty. No. 21760-49

7-25-22
DATE

Jul E. Esenwein
Jul E. Esenwein
Staff Attorney to the Commission
Atty. No. 34291-20

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Comes now Adrienne L. Meiring and certifies that she served a copy of this "Notice of Closure of Investigation and Request to Terminate Suspension" by email and by deposit in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid addressed to the residence listed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court pursuant to Admission and Discipline Rule 2.

This 25th day of July, 2022.

Adrienne L. Meiring
Adrienne L. Meiring
Counsel to the Commission

Before the Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
THE INVESTIGATION OF)
)
THE HONORABLE)
)
SABRINA R. BELL)
)
JUDGE OF CRAWFORD)
)
CIRCUIT COURT)

Case No.: 22S-JD-148/QC05-22-004

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT FOR RESOLUTION OF INVESTIGATION

The following is hereby stipulated and agreed to between the Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications (“Commission”) and the Honorable Sabrina Bell.

1. Sabrina Bell was elected as Judge of Crawford Circuit Court in November 2016, commencing that term on January 1, 2017. Her term was to expire on December 31, 2022; however, she submitted her resignation as judge to the Governor’s Office, to be effective July 15, 2022.
2. Sabrina Bell was apprised by the Commission by letter dated April 14, 2022, that it was investigating allegations of misconduct involving an incident on April 12, 2022, that subsequently resulted in Sabrina Bell’s arrest and a charged count of Domestic Battery in the Presence of a Child, a Level 6 felony, under cause number 13C01-2205-F6-000039. Specifically, the focus of the Commission’s investigation was whether Sabrina Bell’s conduct was in violation of Rule 1.2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which requires



judicial officers to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary.

3. In addition to submitting her resignation as Judge of the Crawford Circuit Court, Sabrina Bell affirms that she will neither seek office nor accept judicial office at any time in her lifetime in Indiana state courts and will not perform judicial duties in the future, including as a judge *pro tempore*, private judge, or temporary judge in Indiana.
4. Additionally, Sabrina Bell has voluntarily agreed to relinquish her attorney license for 150 days by going on inactive status with the condition that she retake and pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination prior to reactivating her law license.
5. At the time of this agreement, the Commission had not completed its investigations. In exchange for Sabrina Bell's affirmation that she will not seek nor accept judicial office in the future in Indiana and temporarily relinquish her law license as stated in paragraph 4, the Commission agrees to conclude its investigations of the outstanding matters without further proceedings.
6. Sabrina Bell understands that should she hold any judicial position at any time in Indiana or violate any other terms of this agreement, the Commission's investigations against her will be revived, and the matters will proceed.
7. Sabrina Bell waives confidentiality as provided by Admission and Discipline Rule 25VIII(B)(1)(b) to the extent that this Stipulation and Agreement for Resolution of Investigation will be made public as part of a Notice of Closure of Investigation filed with the Court in case no. 22S-JD-148 as an attachment and as part of a press release issued the same date of filing.

July 14, 2022
DATE

Sabrina R. Bell
Sabrina R. Bell
Judge of Crawford Circuit Court
Attorney No. 29671-13

7-15-22
DATE

Adrienne L. Meiring
Adrienne L. Meiring
Counsel to the Commission
Attorney No. 18414-45

7-15-2022
DATE

Larry D. Newman
Larry D. Newman
Staff Attorney to the Commission
Attorney No. 21760-49

7-15-22
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