

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
THE INVESTIGATORS,	:	
MEREDITH A. KROENING, AND	:	
JOSH W. KROENING,	:	
RESPONDENTS.	:	LS0512093RAL

Division of Enforcement Case No. 02 RAL 001

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. §227.53 are:

The Investigators
P.O. Box 987
Wausau, WI 54402

Meredith A. Kroening
P.O. Box 987
Wausau, WI 54402

Josh W. Kroening
P.O. Box 987
Wausau, WI 54402

Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Department of Regulation and Licensing (Department). The Department has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable. Accordingly, the Department in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

1.

The Investigators is a Private Detective Agency, Sole Proprietorship license # 62-16076. The license was first granted on 8/14/00, and is current through 8/31/06. The last reported address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is P.O. Box 987, Wausau, WI 54402. Meredith A. Kroening is listed on Department records as the owner of The Investigators.
2.

Meredith A. Kroening, date of birth 12/06/74, is duly licensed as a Private Detective in the State of Wisconsin having license # 63-10185. This license was first granted to her on 01/12/99 and is current through 08/31/06. Ms. Kroening's last reported address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is P.O. Box 987, Wausau, WI 54402.
3.

Joshua W. Kroening, date of birth 08/06/77, is duly licensed as a Private Detective in the State of Wisconsin having license # 63-10186. This license was first granted to him on 01/12/99 and is current through 08/31/06. Mr. Kroening's last reported address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is P.O. Box 987, Wausau, WI 54402.
4.

Meredith A. Kroening and Joshua W. Kroening are husband and wife and are co-owners of the Private Detective Agency, The Investigators.
- about August 3, 2001,

Thomas Simbeck contacted Mr. Kroening requesting private detective services involving Mr. Simbeck's fiancée.
6.

Mr. Simbeck forwarded Mr. Kroening a cashier's check for \$2,000.00 to begin his private detective services.
7.

Mr. Kroening maintains that he sent Mr. Simbeck two copies of the written contract with the intent that Mr. Simbeck sign both copies and return one signed copy to Mr. Kroening. Mr. Kroening maintains that he never received a signed copy of the written contract from Mr. Simbeck.
8.

Mr. Simbeck maintains that he never received a written contract from Mr. Kroening at any point.
9.

Mr. Kroening does not have a copy of the contract he claims to have sent to Mr. Simbeck and does not have proof of his mailing of the contract to Mr. Simbeck or proof of Mr. Simbeck's receipt of the contract he claims to have sent to Mr. Simbeck.
10.

Sometime after Mr. Simbeck forwarded the retainer fee to Mr. Kroening, Mr. Simbeck contacted Mr. Kroening to inquire about the status of the surveillance of his fiancée. After not receiving a reply from Mr. Kroening, Mr. Simbeck asked that Mr. Kroening stop his private detective services, return the \$2,000.00 retainer fee and forward a written accounting of the services that he did perform.
11.

Mr. Kroening never returned Mr. Simbeck's retainer fee, or any portion thereof, nor did he forward an accounting of the time that he worked on Mr. Simbeck's case.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1.

The State of Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.26(6), and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).
2.

The conduct described above in paragraphs 5-8 above, constitutes a violation of Wis. Admin. Code §§ RI.33.00(1), RI. 35.01(9), RI. 35.01(12m), RI. 35.01(14) and Wis. Stat. § 440.26(6)(2) by failing to enter into a written contract with a client and by failing to provide the client with an accurate written accounting of services.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1.

That Respondents, The Investigators, Meredith A. Kroening, and Josh W. Kroening be and hereby are: **REPRIMANDED**
2.

That Respondents shall jointly and severally pay **COSTS** in this matter in the amount of thirteen hundred dollars (\$1,300.00) according to the following schedule:

PAYMENT AMOUNT	DUE DATE
\$200.00	Within 30 days of the date of this order
\$200.00	Within 60 days of the date of this order
\$200.00	Within 90 days of the date of this order
\$200.00	Within 120 days of the date of this order
\$200.00	Within 150 days of the date of this order
\$300.00	Within 180 days of the date of this order

Payment shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing, and mailed to:

Department Monitor
Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
1400 East Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 261-7904
Fax (608) 266-2264

3.

Violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondents' licenses. In its discretion the Department may, in the alternative, impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondents fail to timely submit payment of the costs as set forth above, Respondents' licenses SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.
4.

This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 9th day of December, 2005.

Celia M. Jackson
Secretary
Department of Regulation and Licensing