

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Referee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,
Complainant,

v.

BILLY-JOE HOOT CRAWFORD,
Respondent.

Supreme Court Case
No. SC2025-1715

The Florida Bar File
No. 2022-00,491(14)

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REPORT OF REFEREE

I. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to the undersigned being duly appointed as referee to conduct disciplinary proceedings herein according to the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar 3-7.2, the following proceedings occurred:

On November 3, 2025, The Florida Bar filed its Notice of Judgment of Guilt. On that same date, the Supreme Court of Florida entered an order suspending respondent from the practice of law, effective 30 days from the date of the order, in accordance with Rule 3-7.2(f).

On November 4, 2025, respondent filed an Emergency Motion to Hold Enforcement in Abeyance and Motion for Stay of Enforcement Pending Appeal. By order dated November 4, 2025, the Court directed the

referee to hold a hearing within seven (7) days to determine the matters presented, as required by Rule 3-7.2(h)(1).

On November 7, 2025, the undersigned held a hearing on respondent's Emergency Motion to Hold Enforcement in Abeyance and Motion for Stay of Enforcement Pending Appeal. Shaneé L. Hinson appeared on behalf of complainant. Respondent appeared *pro se*.

The referee having heard the arguments of the parties, having considered the applicable rules and being otherwise advised in the premises FINDS:

Respondent's motion requested that his interim felony suspension be held in abeyance pending a final resolution of his criminal appeal in Case No. 1D2024-2173. Respondent argued that such order would cause no harm to the public but would cause irreparable harm to his reputation in the community. He stated that he is not currently practicing law and has no clients or active cases.

Under Rule 3-7.2(h)(1), R. Regulation Fla. Bar, respondent may challenge the interim suspension only on two (2) limited grounds: 1) the criminal offense is not a felony, or 2) respondent is not the person who was convicted. Respondent admitted that he was convicted of two (2) third-

degree felonies, as alleged in The Florida Bar's Notice of Judgment of Guilt.

Additionally, Rule 3-2.7(j) contemplated pending appeals and provides that: "The suspension will remain in effect during any appeal of the determination or judgment of guilt of a felony offense in the criminal proceeding. The suspension will remain in effect until the final disposition of the criminal cause if remanded for further proceedings and until the respondent's civil rights have been restored and the respondent has been reinstated unless modified or terminated by the Supreme Court of Florida as elsewhere provided."

I find that respondent has presented no legal basis on which the undersigned could authorize a stay of his interim felony suspension under Rules 3-7.2(f) and 3-7.2(h)(1), R. Regulation Fla. Bar. As such, his Emergency Motion to Hold Enforcement in Abeyance and Motion for Stay of Enforcement Pending Appeal is DENIED.

IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED:

Pursuant to the provisions of Rules Regulating The Florida Bar 3-7.2(f), the undersigned referee recommends that respondent's interim felony suspension should not be held in abeyance, and the Court's order of November 3, 2025, should continue in full force and effect.

Dated this 13th day of November, 2025.

11/13/2025 08:53:01


signed by CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE THOMAS H WILLIAMS 11/13/2025 08:53:01 GPahtVsX

Hon. Thomas Hood Williams, Referee

Filed with the Supreme Court of Florida via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal with copies served via the Portal to:

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