

**THE LAW SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE *LEGAL PROFESSION ACT*, SBC 1998, C. 9

AND

**VALORIE F. HEMMINGER LONG**

(a member of the Law Society of British Columbia)

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**RULE 3-7.1 CONSENT AGREEMENT**

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1. On June 1, 2021, the Chair of the Discipline Committee accepted a proposal submitted by Valorie F. Hemminger Long (the “Lawyer”) under Rule 3-7.1 of the Law Society Rules (“Rules”).
2. Under the proposal, the Lawyer admitted that she committed the following misconduct:
  - i. On or about October 31, 2019, she provided a controlled substance, MDMA, to two members of the public. She further admitted that this conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming the profession.
3. Under the proposal, the Lawyer agreed to be suspended from the practice of law for a period of two weeks, commencing on August 28, 2021.
4. In making its decision, the Chair of the Discipline Committee considered an Agreed Statement of Facts dated May 25, 2021, and a letter to the Chair of the Discipline Committee. The Chair also considered the Lawyer’s prior Professional Conduct Record, which included three sets of recommendations made by the Practice Standards Committee in relation to practice management.
5. This consent agreement will now form part of the Lawyer’s Professional Conduct Record.

6. Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(5) of the Rules, and subject to Rule 3-7.2 of the Rules, the Law Society is bound by an effective consent agreement, and no further action may be taken on the complaint that gave rise to the agreement.
7. The admitted facts were set out in an Agreed Statement of Facts dated May 25, 2021. The facts have been anonymized and summarized below.

**I. Summary of Facts**

8. On May 17, 1996, the Lawyer was called to the bar and admitted as a member of the Law Society of British Columbia. Since her call to the bar, she has practised law at several small to mid-sized law offices in Victoria, British Columbia. She currently practises family law (and some motor vehicle law) through her firm, Pathway Legal Law Corporation, in Victoria, British Columbia.
9. On or about October 30, 2019, the lawyer attended a Halloween party at the residence of another lawyer (the “Party”).
10. The Lawyer had fewer than ten (10) tablets of MDMA (methylenedioxymethamphetamine) with her at the Party. While there, she took half a tablet of MDMA.
11. At the Party, the Lawyer was asked for MDMA, and gave it to two members of the public.
12. Between approximately 2010 and 2019, the Lawyer’s lifestyle had involved the use of non-prescription drugs, but it has now changed for the better.
13. In late 2020, the Lawyer was diagnosed with mental illness, for which she is receiving treatment. Since her diagnosis, the Lawyer has not consumed MDMA.