BK

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November 29, 1999

Certified Mail - R.R.R. and Regular Mail

Robert F. Gold, Esq. 48 South Street Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Re:

In the Matter of Robert F. Gold

Docket No. DRB 99-320

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Gold:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in or about March 1995 you were retained by Hendrick William Westerhoek to represent him in a medical malpractice action arising out of the death of his wife. In January 1997, you received an oral communication from Second Opinion, Inc., an organization that you retained to review the various medical records and to secure preliminary expert opinions as to whether or not there was a valid malpractice claim. Notwithstanding your obligation to keep your client informed about the status of the matter, you did not communicate Second Opinion, Inc.'s findings to him and, in addition, did not comply with his numerous requests for information about the progress of the case. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.4(a) and 1.4(b).

In mitigation, the Board considered that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the New Jersey bar in 1980.

Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney, but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you. \underline{R} . 1:20-15 (f) (4).

I/M/O Robert F. Gold DRB 99-320

A permanent record of this occurrence has been filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Board's office. Should you become the subject of any further discipline, it will be taken into consideration.

The Board has also directed that the costs of the disciplinary proceedings be assessed against you. An affidavit of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

Robyn M. Hill

RMH:ms

c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
Associate Justices
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Supreme Court of New Jersey
Lee M. Hymerling, Chair
Disciplinary Review Board
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director
Office of Attorney Ethics.
Linda Maineti-Walsh, Chair
District X Ethics Committee
Bonnie Frost, Secretary
District X Ethics Committee
Vincent J. Nuzzi, Esq., Respondent's counsel
Hendrick William Westerhoek, Grievant