

BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD
OF THE
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY REGISTRATION
AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

NATHANIEL ARTHUR FRENKEL,

Attorney-Respondent,

No. 6321830.

Commission No. 2025PR00074

COMPLAINT

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, by her attorney, Matthew D. Lango, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 761, complains of Respondent, Nathaniel Arthur Frenkel, who was licensed to practice law in Illinois on December 1, 2015, and alleges that Respondent has engaged in the following conduct which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 770:

COUNT I

*(Criminal Convictions for Aggravated Domestic Battery and
Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon)*

1. In 2020, Respondent lived in an apartment in the West Loop neighborhood of Chicago with a woman with the initials Y.R., with whom he was in a romantic relationship.
2. In the evening of October 12, 2020, at approximately 6:00 p.m., Y.R. returned home to the apartment she and Respondent shared. Respondent became angry with Y.R., believing that she had been out drinking alcohol, and began verbally berating her. Y.R., in fear of her safety, left the apartment and attempted to check into a nearby hotel, but was unable to do so because her identification was still in the apartment.

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3. Y.R. returned to the apartment at approximately 7:00 p.m. to retrieve her identification. When she returned, Respondent yelled at Y.R. and ordered her into their bedroom. Once inside the bedroom, Respondent directed Y.R. to sit on the bed. Respondent then knelt behind her, placed both hands around her neck, and strangled her twice, preventing her from breathing. During the strangulation, Respondent told Y.R. that he could kill her by pressing on a particular part of her throat and whispered that he would kill her and then kill her parents.

4. After letting go of Y.R.'s neck, Respondent then ordered her to lie on the bed, while he stood and blocked her access to the door, preventing her from leaving the room. Respondent then picked up a golf club that was in the room and began striking Y.R. repeatedly. Respondent struck Y.R. on the head, causing a scalp laceration that required staples; on her left elbow, fracturing it; on her right side, fracturing ribs; and later struck her leg, fracturing her right tibia. He continued striking her after she attempted to move toward the bathroom and again after she tried to crawl away. For approximately 12 hours, Respondent forcibly kept Y.R. in their bedroom, injured and bleeding, and refused to call for help or provide Y.R. with medical assistance or water despite her repeated pleas.

5. In the early morning of October 13, 2020, Y.R. was eventually able to crawl to her laptop and send a message to a friend asking for help. Officers from the Chicago Police Department arrived at the apartment around 9:19 a.m. on October 13, 2020, and took Respondent into custody.

6. On November 6, 2020, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office indicted Respondent for the crimes of attempted murder (in violation of 720 ILCS 5/8-4(a) and 720-5/9-1(a)(1)), aggravated battery with a deadly weapon (in violation of 720 ILCS 5/12-3.05(f)(1)), and four counts of aggravated domestic battery (in violation of 720 ILCS 5/12-3.3(a), 720 ILCS 5/12-3.3(a), 720 ILCS 5/12-3.3(a-5), and 720 ILCS 5/12-3.2(a)(1)).

7. Respondent's criminal matter was docketed as *People v. Nathaniel Frenkel*, Cook County case number 20CR1133801. The matter was assigned to Judge Jennifer Coleman.

8. On July 15 and 16, 2025, Respondent's criminal matter proceeded to a bench trial before Judge Coleman.

9. On August 1, 2025, Judge Coleman made her findings of fact and conclusions of law in open court. Judge Coleman found the State proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Respondent was guilty of three counts of aggravated domestic battery and one count of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, in violation of 720 ILCS 5/12-3.3(a), 720 ILCS 5/12-3.3(a), 720 ILCS 5/12-3.3(a-5), and 720 ILCS 5/12-3.05(f)(1), respectively. Judge Coleman found that the State did not meet its burden of proof with regard to the charge of attempted murder.

10. On September 5, 2025, Judge Coleman entered a judgment of conviction against Respondent and sentenced Respondent to seven years' imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections. On September 30, 2025, Respondent moved to have Judge Coleman reconsider his sentence, which she denied.

11. On October 9, 2025, Respondent appealed his conviction and sentence to the Illinois Appellate Court. As of the date of the filing of this complaint, that appeal remains pending.

12. By reason of the conduct described above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. committing criminal acts that reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, by committing the criminal offenses of aggravated domestic battery and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon in violation of 720 ILCS 5/12-3.3(a), 720 ILCS 5/12-3.3(a), 720 ILCS 5/12-3.3(a-5), and 720 ILCS 5/12-3.05(f)(1), respectively, and in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

COUNT II
(Failure to Report a Criminal Conviction)

13. The Administrator realleges paragraphs 1 through 12 above.

14. At all times alleged in this complaint, Supreme Court Rule 761(a) provided, that it was the duty of an attorney admitted in this state who is convicted in any court of a felony or misdemeanor to notify the Administrator of the conviction in writing within thirty days of the entry of the judgment of conviction.

15. Respondent's criminal convictions as described in Count I of this complaint are all felony convictions.

16. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 761(a), Respondent was required to notify the Administrator in writing of his convictions in Cook County case number 20CR1133801 no later than October 5, 2025.

17. As of the date of the filing of this complaint, Respondent has not notified the Administrator of his felony convictions in Cook County case number 20CR1133801 as required by Supreme Court Rule 761(a).

18. By failing to report his felony convictions to the Administrator, Respondent engaged in conduct that is prejudicial to the orderly administration of justice and the attorney disciplinary system.

19. By reason of the conduct described above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. failing to notify the Administrator of his conviction in writing within 30 days after the entry of the judgment of conviction in violation of Illinois Supreme Court Rule 761(a) and Rule 8.4(d) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

WHEREFORE, the Administrator requests that this matter be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board, that a hearing be held pursuant to Rule 761, and the panel make findings of fact, conclusions of fact and law, and a recommendation for such discipline as is warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator
Attorney Registration and
Disciplinary Commission

By: /s/ Matthew D. Lango
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