

## Complaint Flowchart\*

COMPLAINT FILED

CONFIDENTIAL INVESTIGATIVE  
FILE OPENEDCOMPLAINT EVALUATED by ARDC staff  
attorney. ARDC may contact complainant for  
additional information.DECISION NOT TO INVESTIGATE AND  
FILE CLOSED. Copy of complaint sent to  
lawyer with closure letter. Explanatory letter  
sent to complainant.DECISION TO INVESTIGATE.  
As part of investigation, lawyer may be asked  
for written response, which may be sent to  
complainant for comment.FILE CLOSED after investigation if no  
actionable misconduct is found or matter is  
otherwise resolved. Explanatory letter sent  
to complainant.FILE REFERRED to ARDC  
Inquiry Panel for consideration of  
formal charges.FORMAL COMPLAINT  
authorized by Inquiry Panel.PROCEEDINGS DEFERRED  
by Inquiry Panel.FILE CLOSED by  
Inquiry Panel.CONDITIONS SATISFIED  
file closed.CONDITIONS NOT SATISFIED  
investigation reopened.FORMAL COMPLAINT filed before ARDC Hearing  
Board. Case becomes public after lawyer is served.AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE on consent  
approved by Hearing Board.FORMAL HEARING  
before Board.CASE GOES TO ILLINOIS  
SUPREME COURT  
for final decision.HEARING BOARD FINDS  
MISCONDUCT and recommends  
discipline to be imposed by the  
Supreme Court.HEARING BOARD  
RECOMMENDS DISMISSAL.  
Case is over unless  
ARDC appeals.IF NEITHER PARTY APPEALS case goes to  
Illinois Supreme Court for final decision.ARDC OR THE LAWYER APPEAL to  
the ARDC Review Board.REVIEW BOARD  
RECOMMENDS DISMISSAL.  
Case is over unless  
ARDC appeals.REVIEW BOARD FINDS  
MISCONDUCT and recommends  
discipline to be imposed by the  
Supreme Court.ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT may order briefs  
and argument and will make a final decision in  
cases that reach the Court.The initial review  
process may take  
2-6 weeks.Investigations are  
typically concluded  
within 6 months.  
Some may extend to  
a year or more.Inquiry panel consideration  
typically takes from  
3-6 months.Inquiry panels may defer  
proceedings for up to one year  
pending the lawyer's  
compliance with conditions.Most cases are before  
the Hearing Board  
for 6-18 months.Appeals to the Review Board  
usually take  
6-8 months.The Court typically  
issues a final decision within 8  
months.

\*This flowchart presents a general overview of possible paths a complaint to the ARDC might take. There may be differences in the path and time periods based on many factors.