

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

At a Regular Term of the Supreme Court of Appeals, continued and held at Charleston, Kanawha County, on September 13, 2023, the following order was made and entered.
SCA EFiled: Sep 13 2023
08:55AM EDT
transcript ID 70847163

In re A.M., C.M.-1, D.C., and C.C.

No. 23-253

RULE TO SHOW CAUSE IN CONTEMPT

On May 3, 2023, the petitioner C.M.-2, by counsel Jason Stedman, The Law Offices of Jason Stedman, filed a notice of appeal from a March 28, 2023, order of the Circuit Court of Berkeley County (Case Nos. CC-02-2022-JA-86, CC-02-2022-JA-87, CC-02-2022-JA-88, and CC-02- 2022-JA-89). The scheduling order further set the deadline for perfecting the appeal as June 14, 2023. Jason Stedman did not perfect the appeal on behalf of the petitioner.

On June 27, 2023, a Notice of Intent to Sanction was entered directing Jason Stedman to perfect the appeal on or before July 11, 2023, or he would be subject to sanctions in accordance with Rule 11(e), of the Rules of Appellate Procedure. The appeal was not perfected.

On August 18, 2023, the petitioner presented to the Court a motion for an enlargement of time to perfect the appeal, for the reasons stated.

Upon review and consideration on September 7, 2023, of the petitioner's motion for an enlargement of time, and Jason Stedman's failure to comply with orders of this Court, the Court is of the opinion that a rule to show cause in contempt should be awarded. It is ORDERED that a rule does issue directed against Jason Stedman, Esq., counsel for the petitioner and respondent to the rule to show cause, returnable before this Court at its courtroom in the City of Charleston, County of Kanawha, at 2:20 p.m., on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, commanding and directing him to show cause, if any he can, why he should not be held in contempt of this Court for failure to perfect the appeal, unless sooner mooted by perfecting the appeal with the filing of a petitioner's brief and appendix that fully comply with the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

It is further ORDERED that the petitioner's motion for an enlargement of time to perfect the appeal as presented is refused.

The Court directs the Clerk of Court to refer the actions of Jason Stedman in failing to perfect the appeal, or otherwise respond to orders of this Court, to the Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel.

It is further ORDERED that a copy of this order be sent to the Honorable Bridget Cohee, Chief Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit.

It is finally ORDERED that Jason Stedman shall provide a copy of this order to his client within ten days of the date of this order.

Service of an attested copy of this order constitutes sufficient notice of the contents.

A True Copy

Attest: /s/ Edythe Nash Gaiser
Clerk of Court

