

*People v. Richard A. Howieson. 21PDJ051. July 21, 2021.*

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge approved the parties' stipulation to discipline and suspended Richard A. Howieson (attorney registration number 50108) for eighteen months, effective July 21, 2021. To be reinstated to the practice of law in Colorado, Howieson must prove by clear and convincing evidence that he has been rehabilitated, has complied with all applicable disciplinary orders and rules, and is fit to practice law.

In January 2021, Howieson pleaded guilty in Jefferson County District Court to a class-six felony of obscenity – promotion to a minor. His conviction stemmed from his exchange of messages with a Jefferson County detective posing as a fourteen-year-old girl via cell phone and the messaging apps Kik and Whisper. During those exchanges, Howieson sent a nude photo of himself and agreed to meet his interlocutor the same day. Howieson drove to the meeting place, where he was arrested by Jefferson County Sheriff's officers and charged with internet sexual exploitation of a child. That count was dismissed when Howieson pleaded guilty to obscenity—promotion to minor.

On March 23, 2021, Howieson was sentenced to four years of probation with conditions, including successful completion of offense-specific treatment, completion of a substance abuse evaluation and treatment, total abstinence from illegal substances, adult sex offender conditions, compliance with Colorado Computer Use Agreement, maintenance of full-time verifiable employment, payment of restitution, maintenance of a stable residence, and registration as a sex offender.

Through this conduct, Howieson violated Colo RPC 8.4(b) (it is professional misconduct to engage in conduct that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects).

The case file is public per C.R.C.P. 242.41(a)(2).