

**DISCIPLINARY HEARING**  
**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

The practitioner, Ms Peta Homer, admitted neglect of her client's affairs in proceedings in the Family Court of WA in that between August 2000 and February 2001, she had failed to file relevant papers, failed to advise the client of hearing dates, failed to appear or arrange for an agent to appear at hearings relative to the proceedings and failed to properly report to the client.

The client was a difficult client. Further, after the completion of her restricted practice period, the practitioner had obtained employment with a practitioner in the country. She had told the practitioner that she had not studied family law and had absolutely no experience in that area. Despite that information, several family law files were transferred to her.

The practitioner had been unable to handle the relevant matter properly due to her lack of knowledge and experience in that area of the law. Although the client complained in writing and his letters were opened by the principal of the firm, apparently nothing was done by that principal to help the practitioner in the matter.

The neglect of the practitioner was serious and detrimental to the client however uncooperative he may have been.

Due to the fact that the practitioner had indicated that the matter would be defended and that it had been set down for a three day hearing and that an indication of the admissions had only been received on the day before the hearing, the costs were agreed and ordered to be paid at \$7,880. The practitioner was reprimanded.

It was also ordered that if the practitioner resumed practice, she must practice for the first two years in the office of a lawyer who has a practice certificate without restriction.

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Mary-Anne Paton  
Registrar  
Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal  
24 March 2004