

JOHNATHAN R. BALDAUF
(Suspension)

On September 10, 2026, the Idaho Supreme Court entered a Disciplinary Order suspending attorney Johnathan R. Baldauf for one year, with all but ninety (90) days withheld.

The Idaho Supreme Court Disciplinary Order followed a stipulated resolution of an Idaho State Bar formal charge disciplinary matter. The formal charge matter related to Mr. Baldauf's representation of a client in a civil rights case. Despite his admitted inexperience with civil rights cases, Mr. Baldauf filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho against the City of Boise, and two Boise Police Department officers (collectively "Defendants"), alleging unlawful arrest, retaliatory arrest, excessive force, malicious prosecution, and failure to intervene. Mr. Baldauf timely provided Defendants with a thumb drive containing some videos taken on the night of the arrest but did not provide any written discovery responses or other information required under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26. Thereafter, Mr. Baldauf failed to respond to discovery requests, which resulted in Defendants filing a motion for sanctions. Mr. Baldauf failed to object to Defendant's motion for sanctions, which the Court granted. The Court's order limited the evidence Mr. Baldauf's client would be able to utilize in the case and awarded Defendants \$3,939.30 in attorney fees. Defendants also filed a motion for summary judgment. Mr. Baldauf failed to respond or object to Defendants' motion for summary judgment. The Court granted the motion for summary judgment and the case was dismissed. Mr. Baldauf's client retained new counsel who negotiated the release of the sanction award in exchange for waiving his right to appeal the Court's decision dismissing his claims.

The Idaho Supreme Court found that Mr. Baldauf's inaction throughout the case violated Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct ("IRPC") 1.1 [a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client], IRPC 1.2(a) [a lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives of representation], IRPC 1.3 [a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client], IRPC 1.4(a) [a lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter], IRPC 3.4(c) [a lawyer shall not knowingly disobey an obligation under the rules of a tribunal], IRPC 3.4(d) [a lawyer shall not fail to make reasonably diligent efforts to comply with legally proper discovery request by an opposing party], and IRPC 8.4(d) [it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice].

Inquiries about this matter may be directed to Bar Counsel, Idaho State Bar, P.O. Box 895, Boise, Idaho 83701, (208) 334-4500