



The Bar Tribunals & Adjudication Service

The Council of the Inns of Court

Disciplinary Tribunal

DARREN STAPLEFORD

Called to the Bar by: Inner Temple, November 2012

Type of hearing: 5 Person Tribunal

Date of decision: 09 March 2023

In breach of:

Paragraphs 301 [a][i][ii] and [iii] and 901 of the Code of Conduct of the Bar of England and Wales

Details of Offence:

Darren Stapleford, an unregistered barrister, on dates unknown before 5 August 2016, engaged in conduct which was dishonest or otherwise discreditable to a barrister; prejudicial to the administration of justice; and/or likely to diminish the trust and confidence in the legal profession or the administration of justice or otherwise bring the legal profession into disrepute by: 1] Fraudulently transferring approximately £11,000 from his Grandmother's bank account to his account; 2] Fraudulently using a Barclaycard without his Grandmother's permission; 3] The fraudulent using of a NatWest bank account held in his Grandmother's name without her permission; 4] The fraudulent using of his Grandmother's bank card to withdraw £4,240 in cash; 5] The fraudulent using of his Grandmother's bank account card to pay for goods and services by way of on-line purchases. For which conduct, on 5 August 2016, Mr Stapleford was convicted by Chichester Crown Court of five counts of Fraud, contrary to Section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006 and sentenced by the judge to 4 years imprisonment on each count to be served concurrently and ordered to pay £8,000 in compensation.

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Sanction: Disbarred. Costs of £1,560 to be paid to the BSB.

Status: Final.