

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,
Petitioner,

Florida Bar File
Nos. 20174035(11B)
and 20174045(11B)

v.

TIKD SERVICES LLC,
A Foreign Limited Liability Company,

and

CHRISTOPHER RILEY,
individually and as Founder of
TIKD SERVICES LLC,

Respondents.

_____ /

PETITION AGAINST THE UNLICENSED PRACTICE OF LAW

The Florida Bar, Petitioner, files this Petition against TIKD SERVICES LLC, a Foreign Limited Liability Company, and CHRISTOPHER RILEY, individually and as Founder of TIKD SERVICES LLC, Respondents, pursuant to Chapter 10 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar and alleges:

1. Respondent Christopher Riley (“Riley”), at all times material herein, was not and is not a member of The Florida Bar, and was not therefore licensed to engage in the practice of law in the State of Florida.

RECEIVED, 01/23/2018 03:13:29 PM, Clerk, Supreme Court

2. Respondent TIKD Services LLC (“TIKD”) is a Foreign Limited Liability Company whose principal place of business is Coral Gables, Florida and at all times material herein was not and is not a law firm and was not and is not authorized to practice law in Florida.

3. Respondent TIKD is not a lawyer referral service.

4. Respondents have engaged in the unlicensed practice of law in various Florida counties, including Miami-Dade County, by one or more of the following acts:

COUNT I

5. Respondents advertise in a fashion which may lead a reasonable lay person to believe Respondents are qualified to offer legal services to the public.

6. Respondents either personally or through advertisement offer traffic ticket defense legal services for a fixed price along with an offer to pay all fines and court costs with a money-back guarantee.

7. Respondents either personally or through advertisement offer traffic ticket defense legal services while suggesting that their services are the equivalent of or a substitute for the services of an attorney. For example, the FAQ page on TIKD’s website advertising, attached as Exhibit 1, states in part as follows:

Can’t I hire a lawyer to do the same thing for me?

You sure can! And we encourage you to do the research and make an informed choice on what’s best for you and

your individual case. However, hiring your own lawyer directly can be more expensive than choosing TIKD. In most of the Counties where we operate, lawyer fees can range from \$300-\$800 excluding Court costs and the fine amount itself. It's also much quicker and easier to use TIKD. With TIKD you simply go to TIKD.com, upload a picture of your traffic ticket along with some basic info and we do the rest. Simple.

COUNT II

8. Utilizing various forms of advertising, including its website, Respondents reach and obtain customers who have been issued traffic tickets and who desire to have their traffic tickets resolved ("TIKD customers").

9. TIKD customers initiate traffic ticket legal defense services by sending a photograph of the ticket to Respondents and paying Respondents a fixed fee set by Respondents to resolve each traffic ticket. The fee paid by the customer to TIKD is always lower than the ticket amount.

10. Respondents conduct an intake assessment of each traffic ticket and exclude traffic tickets which do not meet the Respondents' criteria.

11. Respondents have entered into contracts/agreements with Florida-licensed lawyers ("TIKD lawyers") to provide traffic ticket legal defense representation to TIKD customers.

12. Respondents pay TIKD lawyers a portion of the fee received from TIKD customers based upon a rate set by Respondents as negotiated with the TIKD lawyers. TIKD's customers do not pay the lawyer. *See Exhibit 2.*

13. Respondents retain a share of the fee received from the TIKD customer to handle the traffic ticket defense.

14. Once the ticket defense is accepted by TIKD, the TIKD customer's case is sent to a TIKD lawyer chosen by Respondents. The Respondents initiate the lawyer-client relationship.

15. After the case is assigned to a TIKD lawyer, Respondents provide the TIKD lawyer with information about the TIKD customer's case; the TIKD customer then receives a letter from the TIKD lawyer.

16. TIKD lawyers are required to provide case status updates to Respondents.

17. Respondents communicate with TIKD customers assigned to TIKD lawyers during the pendency of their traffic ticket cases through final resolution.

18. In sum, Respondents engage in the business of offering traffic ticket legal defense services through members of The Florida Bar.

19. The aforementioned actions of the Respondents violate the letter and spirit of this Court's decisions in *State of Florida ex rel. The Florida Bar v. Sperry*, 140 So. 2d 587 (Fla. 1962); *The Florida Bar v. Consolidated Business and Legal Forms, Inc.*, 386 So. 2d 797 (Fla. 1980); *The Florida Bar v. We The People Forms and Service Center of Sarasota, Inc.*, 883 So. 2d 1280 (Fla. 2004); *The Florida Bar*

v. Brumbaugh, 355 So. 2d 1186 (Fla. 1978); *The Florida Bar v. Neiman*, 816 So. 2d 587 (Fla. 2002); and *The Florida Bar v. Warren*, 655 So. 2d 1131 (Fla. 1995).

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays as follows:

1. That this Court issue an opinion ruling that the conduct constitutes the unlicensed practice of law.
2. That this Court issue a permanent injunction preventing and restraining Respondents from engaging in the acts complained of and from otherwise engaging in the practice of law in the State of Florida, until such time as Respondent Riley is duly licensed to practice law in this state.
3. That the costs of this proceeding be taxed against Respondents.
4. That this Court grant such other and further relief as it may deem proper.

Respectfully submitted,

THE FLORIDA BAR

Joshua E. Doyle
Executive Director
The Florida Bar
Florida Bar No. 25902
651 E. Jefferson St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300
(850) 561-5600
Primary E-Mail: jdoyle@floridabar.org

Kellie D. Scott, Chair
Standing Committee on Unlicensed
Practice of Law
Florida Bar No. 432600
651 E. Jefferson St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300
(850) 561-5840
Primary E-Mail: upl@floridabar.org

William A. Spillias
UPL Counsel
Florida Bar No. 909769
The Florida Bar
651 E. Jefferson St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300
(850) 561-5840
Primary E-Mail: wspillias@floridabar.org

Algeisa Maria Vazquez
Bar Counsel
Florida Bar No. 899968
The Florida Bar
Lakeshore Plaza II
1300 Concord Terrace, Suite 130
Sunrise, Florida 33323
(954) 835-0233, ext. 4148
Primary Email: avazquez@floridabar.org
Secondary Email: upl@floridabar.org

By: /s/ Kellie D. Scott
Kellie D. Scott, Chair
Standing Committee on UPL
Florida Bar No. 432600



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[SUBMIT MY TICKET](#)



- Is TIKD a law firm?
 - Is TIKD available in my area?
 - Why should I choose to use TIKD?
 - How can TIKD offer such great benefits?
 - But if my traffic ticket is challenged in court, what happens if my case loses? Seems risky.
 - Can't I hire a lawyer to do the same thing for me?
- You sure can! And we encourage you to do the research and make an informed choice on what's best for you and your individual case.
- However, hiring your own lawyer directly can be more expensive than choosing TIKD. In most of the Counties where we operate, lawyer fees can range from \$300-\$800 excluding Court costs and the fine amount itself.
- It's also much quicker and easier to use TIKD. With TIKD you simply go to TIKD.com, upload a picture of your traffic ticket along with some basic info and we do the rest. Simple.
- Why should I challenge my traffic ticket at all? Isn't the right thing to do is pay?



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[SUBMIT MY TICKET](#)



- Is TIKD a law firm?
- Is TIKD available in my area?
- Why should I choose to use TIKD?
- How can TIKD offer such great benefits?
- But if my traffic ticket is challenged in court, what happens if my case loses? Seems risky.
- Can't I hire a lawyer to do the same thing for me?
- Why should I challenge my traffic ticket at all? Isn't the right thing to do is pay?
- Can I talk to the lawyer who will handle my case?
- Do I have to pay my lawyer separately?

No. A portion of what you pay to TIKD will go directly to your lawyer. The amount you pay to TIKD is all you will ever have to pay.
- Do I need to appear in court?
- Can I attend the hearing if I would like to?
- What type of traffic tickets does TIKD accept?