

in pa, if a person files a complaint against a lawyer with the disciplinary board for lawyers and that complaint was dismissed, what can I do after that?

Yes. In Pennsylvania, a dismissal of your complaint against a lawyer does not necessarily end your ability to ask the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) to reconsider it.

Pennsylvania's rules specifically provide a procedure for requesting review of a dismissed complaint.

Under 204 Pa. Code § 87.9(c), you can make a written request that ODC review the dismissal and reopen the investigation. The request goes to the Disciplinary Counsel-in-Charge of the district office that dismissed your complaint. You should explain specifically why the investigation should be reopened and include evidence that was not previously brought to ODC's attention.  +1

The process is essentially:

1. **Request review of the dismissal in writing.** Identify your complaint/file number, the lawyer involved, the dismissal date, and explain why you believe the dismissal was incorrect. Point to particular documents, testimony, court orders, transcripts, emails, billing records, or other evidence rather than simply restating the original allegations. Pennsylvania's rule expressly says the request should state the reasons for reopening and include previously unconsidered evidence. 
2. **If the Disciplinary Counsel-in-Charge denies your request,** you can submit a written request for further review to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel or the Chief's designee. 
3. **After the Chief Disciplinary Counsel level,** there is no complainant's right of appeal under this disciplinary procedure. Section 87.9(d) expressly says a complainant has no right to appeal the dismissal or the final denial of a request to reopen. 

That last point is important: "no right to appeal" is different from saying that you cannot initially request reconsideration/reopening. Pennsylvania expressly gives you the review procedure described above.

Also, dismissal of a disciplinary complaint does **not necessarily mean that ODC determined everything the attorney did was proper**. ODC's role is attorney discipline; it does not represent you in your underlying case, order the attorney to compensate you, or generally resolve your civil claims. The Disciplinary Board explains these limitations on its public information page. 

Depending on what the lawyer allegedly did, other avenues can exist independently of attorney discipline—for example, a court motion or objection in the underlying case, a fee dispute procedure, a civil claim where legally available, the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security for qualifying losses caused by dishonest attorney conduct, or referral to law enforcement if the evidence actually establishes suspected criminal conduct. Pennsylvania's own disciplinary rule recognizes that a dismissed matter may sometimes appropriately be taken to another agency, fee-dispute body, criminal prosecution agency, or other appropriate authority. 

Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board — Public Resources

In your situation

Given that you've been asking about attorneys' conduct connected with a **Montgomery County guardianship/probate matter**, the strongest reconsideration request would probably **separate each attorney's conduct into individual alleged violations and attach the evidence establishing each one** rather than presenting the entire history of the guardianship as one broad allegation.

For example: *Attorney X made statement A → document/order/transcript B demonstrates why it was allegedly false → explain what Attorney X knew at the time → identify the applicable Pennsylvania Rule of Professional Conduct → explain why the dismissal apparently failed to address that evidence.*

If you give me **the dismissal letter from the Disciplinary Board** (you can upload it here), I can examine the stated reason for dismissal and help you determine **exactly what §87.9(c) allows you to do next and how to structure a written request to reopen the investigation.**

