



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
Of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: MELVIN G. TURNER, BPR #4439
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October 16, 2002

MEMPHIS ATTORNEY SUSPENDED FROM PRACTICE OF LAW

On October 14, 2002 the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending the law license of Melvin G. Turner for a period of six months retroactive to January 17, 2002.

Mr. Turner neglected two estates and allowed a paralegal to draft a motion for bankruptcy court and signed Mr. Turner's name to the motion. Mr. Turner allowed the paralegal to file the motion without having reviewed the motion or interview the client prior to the motion being filed. Mr. Turner's actions and omissions in these matters resulted in violation of Disciplinary Rules 1-102(A)(1)(4)(5)(6); DR 3-101(A); DR 6-101(A)(1)(2)(3); DR 7-101(A)(1)(2)(3)(4); and DR 7-106(C)(5)(6) and (7), of the Code of Professional Responsibility. A petition for discipline was filed by Disciplinary Counsel on behalf of the Board of Professional Responsibility. Pursuant to Rule 9, Section 16.1 of the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court, Mr. Turner admitted the charges filed against him and entered into a settlement agreement approved by both the hearing committee and the Board of Professional Responsibility. The Tennessee Supreme Court acted upon the settlement agreement and ordered that Mr. Turner shall be suspended for six months from the practice of law retroactive to January 17, 2002. Section 18 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 requires Mr. Turner to notify by registered or certified mail all clients being represented in pending matters; all co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court's order suspending his license. Section 18 also requires Mr. Turner to deliver to all clients any paper or property to which they are entitled.

This disciplinary matter was held pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 8 and 9. In Tennessee suspended lawyers may, after the passage of their suspension, apply for reinstatement of their law licenses. However, to succeed these lawyers must carry their burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence that their reinstatement will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice or subversive to the public interest.

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