



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
of the  
**SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: WILLIAM MARK RUSSELL, NO. 11666**  
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**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

January 8, 2004

**SHELBYVILLE LAWYER SUSPENDED BY SUPREME COURT**

By Order of the Supreme Court filed December 30, 2003, William Mark Russell of Shelbyville was suspended from the practice of law for one year effective October 1, 2003. Mr. Russell had previously been temporarily suspended from the practice of law on October 28, 2002, for failure to respond to complaints of misconduct.

A Petition for Discipline was filed by the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee against Mr. Russell on February 6, 2003, alleging that Mr. Russell failed to properly and timely appear and represent his clients. When Mr. Russell failed to respond to the Petition, a Motion for Default Judgment and That Allegations Contained in Petition for Discipline Be Deemed Admitted was granted against Mr. Russell on July 11, 2003. A hearing on the Petition for Discipline was conducted before a Hearing Panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility on October 1, 2003. Mr. Russell did not appear. The Hearing Panel found that Mr. Russell violated the rules of professional conduct in that he failed to handle legal matters with the preparation necessary, neglected legal matters entrusted to him, failed to represent clients with reasonable diligence and promptness, failed to keep clients reasonably informed about the status of their cases to the extent necessary to make informed decisions, failed to properly withdraw from representation, and intentionally violated established rules of procedure. The Hearing Panel found that Mr. Russell should be suspended from the practice of law for one year effective October 1, 2003, and placed conditions upon Mr. Russell's reinstatement.

The suspension will remain in effect until an Order of Reinstatement, if any, is issued by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Reinstatement would be granted only if Mr. Russell demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that he has the moral qualifications, competency, and learning required for admission to the practice of law and that his resumption of practice would not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or administration of justice or subversive to the public interest.

The Order requires Mr. Russell to pay the cost of the disciplinary proceeding as a condition to being reinstated to the practice of law.