

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT VI  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: WILLIAM BARNES, JR., BPR NO. 11399  
Respondent, an attorney licensed  
to practice law in Tennessee  
(Maury County)

FILE NO. 32050-6-JV

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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The above complaint was filed against William Barnes, Jr., an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on March 12, 2010.

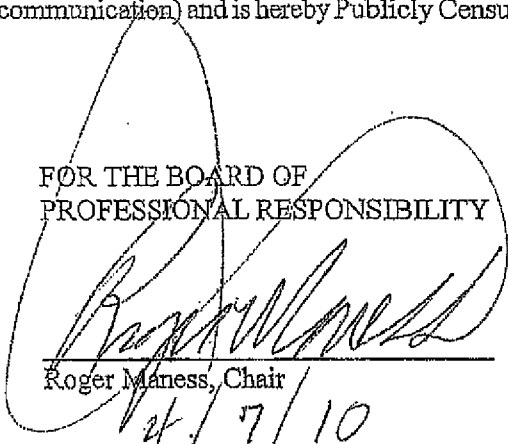
Respondent represented Complainant in child legitimation and visitation matters. Complainant serves in the U.S. Army and was deployed to Iraq during part of the representation. In August 2008, Complainant and the child's mother agreed on visitation during Complainant's military leaves. Respondent's draft of an Agreed Order memorializing the agreement was incorrect. Respondent said several times that he would correct it, but he never did. Respondent admits his error in allowing opposing counsel to sign his name and file the Agreed Order without Respondent reviewing it. The incorrect Agreed Order was filed and entered in October 2008, two months after the agreement.

Respondent failed to send the filed Agreed Order to Complainant, who received a copy of it from the child's mother five months after filing. In the meantime, in December 2008, Respondent had Complainant sign a Petition allowing Complainant visitation on his military leaves, but he never

set it for hearing. The Petition contains an error and is inadequate to address the contested issue. Beginning in mid-December 2008, Respondent stopped communicating with Complainant or his father about the status of the matter. The Agreed Order is adverse to Complainant's rights and his relationship with his child. Respondent has past disciplinary history for similar conduct.

By the aforementioned facts, William Barnes, Jr., has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence) and 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Roger Maness, Chair

24 / 7 / 10  
Date