



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM BARNES, JR., BPR# 11399
CONTACT: RACHEL L. WATERHOUSE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 15, 2010

COLUMBIA LAWYER CENSURED

On April 15, 2010, William Barnes, Jr., a Tennessee attorney, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

In representation of his client, Mr. Barnes drafted an Agreed Order that incorrectly memorialized a visitation agreement between his client and the child's mother. Mr. Barnes admits his error in allowing opposing counsel to sign his name and file the Agreed Order without Mr. Barnes again reviewing it. The incorrect Agreed Order, which was adverse to the client's rights and his relationship with his child, was filed and entered in October 2008, two months after the agreement.

Mr. Barnes failed to send the filed Agreed Order to his client, who received a copy of it from the child's mother five months after filing. In the meantime, Mr. Barnes had his client sign a Petition allowing his client 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.

Mr. Barnes' actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence) and 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for those violations.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Barnes 32050-6 rel.doc.

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