



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

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

January 24, 2011

COLUMBIA LAWYER CENSURED

On January 21, 2011, William Clark Barnes, Jr., of Columbia, Tennessee, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility.

Mr. Barnes failed to review a proposed Order before it was signed and filed with the Court. The proposed Order contained errors, but was entered by the Court. Also, Mr. Barnes failed to send to his client a subsequent motion to modify the parenting plan he had filed.

Mr. Barnes' actions violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence) and 1.4 (communication).

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

Barnes 33173-6 rel.doc.

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

FILED

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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY

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EXEC. SEC'Y

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

FILE NO. 33173-6-RW

PUBLIC CENSURE

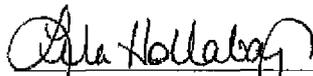
The above complaint was filed against William Clark Barnes, Jr., an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 10, 2010.

Respondent represented his client at a hearing on July 10, 2009, in which the Court ruled on terms of an amended permanent parenting plan (PPP) and child support worksheet. Adverse counsel faxed a copy of a proposed Order reflecting the court's ruling and attached PPP to Respondent on July 17 and July 23, 2009, for his review. When adverse counsel did not hear from Respondent, she scheduled it for a hearing on August 7, 2009. Respondent and adverse counsel communicated before the hearing, which he did not attend. The Order and attached PPP were submitted for entry at that time by adverse counsel, who signed Respondent's name with permission. Respondent admits that he failed to review the Order and attached PPP before they were entered. While Respondent does not admit that the Order and PPP contained errors, in a subsequent letter to adverse counsel, Respondent states that his client pointed out errors, which he was correcting in the enclosed modified

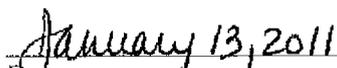
parenting plan he intended to file with the court. Also, Respondent cited "clerical errors" as grounds for the motion for modification. Respondent's contention that he did not give adverse counsel permission to sign his name to the Order is rebutted by adverse counsel's account, which is supported by documentation. Respondent failed to send the motion to modify the parenting plan he filed to his client. Respondent has past disciplinary history for similar conduct.

By the aforementioned facts, William Clark 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



Lela M. Hollabaugh, Chair



Date