



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: ANDREW EDWARD BATEMAN, BPR #34138**  
**CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

November 6, 2019

**McMINN COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On November 5, 2019, Andrew Edward Bateman, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Bateman had a concurrent conflict of interest after agreeing to represent both husband and wife in a step-parent adoption and, while such representation was ongoing, filing a divorce complaint on behalf of the husband against the wife. Mr. Bateman was specifically instructed by wife's divorce counsel not to file an adoption petition the wife had previously executed, but he nevertheless filed the petition with the court. Mr. Bateman included language in the petition indicating it was unknown whether wife still consented to the adoption proceeding even though Mr. Bateman had been informed that the wife had withdrawn her consent to the adoption. Mr. Bateman also assisted the husband in ghostwriting pleadings in his divorce case after he had withdrawn from the representation.

By these acts, Andrew Edward Bateman, has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.2 (scope of representation), 1.7(a) (conflict of interest), 3.1 (meritorious claims), 3.3(a) (candor toward tribunal), 4.1 (truthfulness in statements to others), and 8.4(a)(c) and (d) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

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

Bateman 59912-3 rel.doc