



**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 Bateman had been informed that the wife had withdrawn her consent to the adoption.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 Bateman also assisted the husband in ghostwriting pleadings in his divorce case after he had withdrawn from the representation.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

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

IN RE: Andrew Edward Bateman, Respondent,
BPR# 34138, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee.
(McMinn County)

FILE NO. 59912-3-KB

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Andrew Edward Bateman, 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 September 13, 2019.

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 when it was clear that Mr. Bateman was advised 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 the aforementioned 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.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Floyd S. Hippi

Floyd Hippi, Chair

11-5-19

Date