



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: CHARLES MATTHEW BATES, BPR# 20609**  
**CONTACT: KEVIN BALKWILL**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

April 28, 2011

**LAWRENCE COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On April 27, 2011, Charles Matthew Bates, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

In one case, Mr. Bates represented a client who had moved to another state. He was not diligent in handling the representation, and failed to reasonably communicate with his client about her divorce case. Mr. Bates failed to properly supervise his assistant, who was not relaying messages from the client to him and who had signed pleadings without his approval. Mr. Bates entered an Agreed Order setting the case for trial and settled the case without the approval of his client. Further, the Final Decree which Mr. Bates approved stated that his client appeared before the Court during the final hearing. The client was actually out of state and unaware that a hearing had occurred.

In another case, Mr. Bates represented a client in a personal injury matter. He failed to properly supervise his assistant, who did not procure documentation from the client at the onset of the case, and who corresponded with the client and opposing counsel without authority from Mr. Bates. He failed to reasonably communicate with his client, which caused an unnecessary delay in the client's case.

By the aforementioned acts, Charles Matthew Bates has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2 (scope of representation), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.3 (candor to the tribunal), and 5.3 (responsibilities regarding non-lawyer assistants) 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.

Bates 32703c-6; 32878-6 rel.doc

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