

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

IN RE: JOEL ROBERT BELLIS, BPR NO. 27750
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Maury County)

FILE NO. 41123-6-KB


PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Joel Robert Bellis, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on March 11, 2016.

Mr. Bellis failed to secure a written agreement signed by his client, Tyann Williford, to establish a non-refundable fee. Mr. Bellis failed to deposit the fee into his trust account and failed to promptly refund unearned fees and costs to Ms. Williford after his representation was terminated.

By these acts, Joel Robert Bellis has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property) and 1.16 (terminating representation) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations. Additionally, as a condition of the Public Censure, Mr. Bellis shall be required to refund \$3,100.00 in fees to Ms. Williford within one hundred eighty (180) days of issuance of this Public Censure.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY


Michael King, Chair

April 5, 2016
Date