



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JOEL ROBERT BELLIS, BPR #27750
CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 7, 2016

MAURY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On April 5, 2016, Joel Robert Bellis, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Bellis failed to secure a written agreement with his client to establish a non-refundable fee, failed to deposit the fee into his trust account, and failed to promptly refund unearned fees and costs to his client 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. In addition, Mr. Bellis shall be required to refund \$3,100.00 in fees to his former client within one hundred eighty (180) days of issuance of this Public Censure.

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

Bellis 41123-6 rel.doc

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