

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

IN RE: Douglas Neil Blackwell, Respondent,
BPR# 19298, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee.
(Bradley County)

FILE NO. 56988-3-KB


PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Douglas Neil Blackwell, 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 14, 2018.

Mr. Blackwell accepted a refundable retainer fee from a client in a conservatorship proceeding without depositing the fee into his client trust account until earned. Mr. Blackwell failed to diligently represent his client's interest in the matter by delaying the filing of a petition for nearly a year. The petition filed by Mr. Blackwell did not include a proper physician's affidavit nor was a proposed property management plan ever filed. Mr. Blackwell thereafter failed to adequately communicate with his client or appear in court for status conferences. The court ultimately removed Mr. Blackwell as counsel and appointed other counsel to represent the client. Mr. Blackwell failed to provide his former client with the client file. Mr. Blackwell later filed a fee affidavit at the request of the court which contained material misrepresentations and the court found the fee to be unreasonable. The court ordered Mr. Blackwell to refund the fees to the former client which he did. Mr. Blackwell also failed to adequately respond to inquiries from the Board. By the aforementioned acts, Douglas Neil Blackwell, has violated Rules of Professional Conduct

1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safeguarding property), 1.16 (terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.3 (candor toward tribunal), 8.1(b) (disciplinary matters), and 8.4(a)(c)(d) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Jimmie Miller, Chair

10-15-10

Date