



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

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AMENDED RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ERIN DANIELLE BRYSON, #031049
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 17, 2020

STEWART COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On April 14, 2020, Erin Danielle Bryson, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Ms. Bryson is an Assistant District Attorney in Stewart County. At a preliminary hearing, on April 7, 2017, an investigator employed by the Stewart County Sheriff's Office leaned over to Ms. Bryson while the hearing was proceeding and told her that he had samples of the evidence at issue "in my car." On direct examination, she asked the investigator if he had samples of the evidence, and he testified "I do. That's being held in evidence." On cross examination, defense counsel asked where the samples were, and the investigator testified "currently in the sheriff's office. . . [i]n the evidence . . . room."

After the hearing, Ms. Bryson checked with the sheriff's office and determined the evidence was not in the evidence room. On April 11, 2017, the investigator prepared an amended "Investigative Report" which explained his incorrect testimony. On April 28, 2017, Ms. Bryson prepared a memorandum to her file about the investigator's testimony. She received the transcript of the hearing on June 13, 2017. On October 23, 2017, Ms. Bryson extended by email a settlement offer to one defendant with a copy of her April 28, 2017, memorandum.

Ms. Bryson did not inform opposing counsel of the false testimony of the investigator for six months, and she did not inform the tribunal at any time. Ms. Bryson is in violation of Rule 3.3(h) (candor to the tribunal), which requires an attorney to "promptly report the improper conduct to the tribunal"; and Rule 3.8(d) (special responsibilities of a prosecutor) in failing to "timely" disclose to the defense information known to her which "tends" to "mitigate[] the offense." Ms. Bryson is also in violation of Rule 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice).

By these acts, Erin Danielle Bryson has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3(h) (candor to the tribunal), 3.8(d) (special responsibilities of a prosecutor) and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these acts.

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

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