



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ADDIE MARIE BURKS, BPR #011805
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 19, 2021

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On January 15, 2021, Addie Marie Burks, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Ms. Burks received funds on a client's case in November 2019, and she delayed distributing the funds until August 2020. Also, Ms. Burks distributed all the funds directly to the client instead of first resolving existing medical liens. Ms. Burks did not have a written fee agreement for a contingency fee agreement, and she commingled a small portion of her fee with client funds when she failed to timely remove her entire fee from trust. In another matter for the same client, Ms. Burks failed to timely distribute a small amount to a medical provider for over two years.

By these acts, Addie Marie Burks has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.15 (safekeeping funds), 1.5 (fees) and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice) and is hereby Publicly Censured, with the requirement that she attend the Board of Professional Responsibility's Trust Account Workshop scheduled for March 2021.

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

Burks 63673-9 rel.doc

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

IN RE: ADDIE MARIE BURKS, #011805
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

FILE NO. 63673-9-ES

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Addie Marie Burks, 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 this matter at its meeting on December 11, 2020.

Ms. Burks received funds on a client's case in November 2019, and she delayed distributing them until August 2020. Also, Ms. Burks distributed all the funds directly to the client instead of first resolving existing medical liens. Ms. Burks did not have a written fee agreement for a contingency fee agreement in violation of Rule 1.5, and she commingled a small portion of her fee with client funds in violation of Rule 1.15, when she failed to timely remove her entire fee from trust. In another matter for the same client, Ms. Burks failed to timely distribute a small amount to a medical provider for over two years.

By the aforementioned acts, Addie Marie Burks has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.15 (safekeeping funds), 1.5 (fees) and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice) and is hereby Publicly Censured, with the requirement that she attend the Board of Professional Responsibility's Trust Account Workshop scheduled for March 2021.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Floyd S. Flippin

Floyd Flippin, Chair

1/15/21

Date