



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: PATRICIA DONICE BUTLER, BPR# 22706**  
**CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

July 28, 2014

**ROANE COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On July 28, 2014, Patricia Donice Butler, of Roane County, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for nine (9) months, ninety (90) days of which is to be active and the remainder to be served on probation subject to conditions requiring her to complete an additional twelve (12) hours of Continuing Legal Education, engage a practice monitor during the period of probation, confer with the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP), and comply with any and all recommendations of TLAP.

A Petition for Discipline was filed on May 3, 2012, and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline was filed on July 12, 2013. The Petitions contained six (6) complaints alleging that Ms. Butler committed ethical misconduct in her representation of clients in 2008-2012. Ms. Butler failed to act with competence and diligence, and failed to adequately communicate with her clients and expedite litigation. In one case she was not candid with the court concerning the failure to timely answer written discovery and in another case she signed an agreed order after being terminated by her client. She also failed to secure a signed order granting temporary emergency custody for one client, and failed to appear at a hearing where summary judgment was granted against another client.

Ms. Butler's actions violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.1, Competence; 1.2 (a), Scope of Representation; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.16 (a) and (d), Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; 3.3, Candor Toward the Tribunal; and 8.4(a), (c) and (d), Misconduct.

Ms. Butler must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Rule 9, section 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

Butler 2117-2 rel.doc

**PLEASE NOTE**

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