



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: CHARLES MICHAEL CLIFFORD, BPR #1544
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

November 26, 2014

BLOUNT COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On November 25, 2014, Charles Michael Clifford of Blount County, Tennessee was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for one (1) year, consisting of thirty (30) days of active suspension and the remainder to be served on probation subject to the conditions that he consult with the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Order, and engage a practice monitor during the period of probation. The effective date of the Court's Order is December 5, 2014.

A Petition for Discipline was filed on April 2, 2014 containing two complaints. In the first complaint, Mr. Clifford failed to pursue his clients' objectives and misled them as to the status of the case. In the second complaint, Mr. Clifford failed to comply with a Scheduling Order and failed to take appropriate steps to protect his client when he withdrew from the case.

Mr. Clifford entered into a conditional Guilty Plea admitting to the misconduct. Mr. Clifford's actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence); 1.2(a) (scope of representation); 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.16 (declining and terminating representation); and, 8.4 (misconduct).

Mr. Clifford must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.