



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: CHARLES MICHAEL CLIFFORD, BPR #1544
CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON
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.

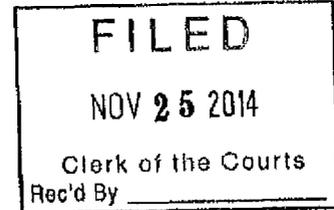
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: CHARLES MICHAEL CLIFFORD, BPR #1544

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Blount County)

No. M2014-02192-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2014-2309-2-AJ



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Charles Michael Clifford on April 2, 2014; upon Response to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Clifford on April 24, 2014; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Clifford on October 15, 2014; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on October 21, 2014; upon consideration and approval by the Board on October 27, 2014; and upon the entire record in this cause.¹

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2, Charles Michael Clifford is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year, consisting of thirty (30) days active suspension and the remainder on probation subject to the following conditions:

- a) Prior to the expiration of the thirty (30) day active suspension, Mr. Clifford shall undergo an evaluation by the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program ("TLAP") and follow all of its recommendations.
- b) During the period of probation, Mr. Clifford shall engage a practice monitor at his own expense who shall meet with Mr. Clifford on a monthly

¹ Because this cause was initiated prior to January 1, 2014, it is governed by the pre-2014 version of Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9.

basis to review basic office procedures such as scheduling and maintenance of case deadlines and the use of written communication and fee agreements. The practice monitor shall send monthly reports of these meetings to the Board. Mr. Clifford shall select three potential practice monitors and submit the names to the Board for final approval of a practice monitor within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5 (2006), this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

(3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3 (2006), Mr. Clifford shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$268.54 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(4) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10 (2006).

PER CURIAM