



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: CHARLES M. CLIFFORD, BPR# 1544**  
**CONTACT: RACHEL L. WATERHOUSE**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

January 24, 2011

**MARYVILLE LAWYER CENSURED**

On January 21, 2011, Charles M. Clifford, of Maryville, Tennessee, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility.

From early 2008 until April 2009, Mr. Clifford failed to take action on behalf of his client who retained him to seek custody of his child whom he believed was being abused at the home of the child's mother. When Mr. Clifford failed to return the client's phone calls, the client called another attorney who met with him that day and filed an emergency Petition for Custody in Juvenile Court, which was immediately granted. The information relied on by subsequent counsel and the Court was the same information conveyed to Mr. Clifford. The child was subject to abuse in the period between when Mr. Clifford became involved and when the subsequent attorney took action.

Mr. Clifford's actions violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.2 (scope of representation), 1.3 (diligence) and 1.4 (communication).

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

Clifford 33246-2 rel.doc.

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