



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: MICHAEL SCOTT COLLINS, BPR #19065**  
**CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

December 12, 2013

**SUMNER COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On December 10, 2013, Michael Scott Collins, of Sumner County, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for three (3) years. Pursuant to the Order of Enforcement, Mr. Collins shall contact Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP), pay restitution to two (2) former clients, and pay the cost and expense of the disciplinary proceedings. Payment of restitution and contact with TLAP as required are conditions precedent to Mr. Collins' reinstatement to the practice of law.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Collins on February 26, 2013. A Hearing Panel determined that Mr. Collins received a \$27,500.00 retainer fee to represent a client in a post-divorce criminal contempt proceeding and failed to deposit the retainer into his trust account. Mr. Collins was also retained by the client's relative to recover certain personal property. The Panel determined Mr. Collins failed to provide agreed upon legal services to his clients, failed to communicate timely with his clients regarding the status of their respective cases and misled his clients regarding the status and progress of their respective cases. The Panel found the retainer fees charged by Mr. Collins were unreasonable. In addition, the Hearing Panel specifically found Mr. Collins charged the client \$10,000.00 to become a member of his "professional family" and that said charge was unrelated to any legal services and constituted an improper and unreasonable fee.

Mr. Collins' actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2 (scope of representation), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 8.1 (disciplinary matters), and 8.4(a) and (d) (misconduct).

Mr. Collins must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 19, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and satisfy all continuing legal education requirements prior to reinstatement.

Collins 2192-6 rel.doc

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