



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: CYNTHIA LEE COSTNER-SEXTON, BPR #9936**  
**CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

September 22, 2015

**BLOUNT COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On September 18, 2015, the law license of Cynthia Lee Costner-Sexton, a Maryville attorney, was suspended by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for eleven (11) months and twenty-nine (29) days retroactive to July 21, 2014. Ms. Costner-Sexton must pay restitution, the Board's costs and expenses, and court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement. The Supreme Court Order was effective upon entry, and Ms. Costner-Sexton remains suspended until an Order of Reinstatement is entered.

A Petition for Discipline was filed against Ms. Costner Sexton based upon one complaint of misconduct. A Hearing Panel for the Board found Ms. Costner-Sexton failed to reasonably communicate with her client, failed to provide professional services after accepting a retainer, failed to refund unearned fees and failed to respond to the Board.

Ms. Costner-Sexton's actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communications; 1.5, Fees; 1.16, Declining or Terminating Representation; 8.1, Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4, Misconduct

Ms. Costner-Sexton must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Costner-Sexton 2390-2 rel.doc