



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM JEFFERSON CRANFORD, III, BPR #035492
CONTACT: MAUREEN F. HUGHES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

December 16, 2025

MADISON COUNTY (ALABAMA) LAWYER CENSURED

On December 16, 2025, William Jefferson Cranford, III, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Cranford represented a client in Federal Court in Alabama. Mr. Cranford drafted, signed, and personally filed two motions on behalf of his client which included fabricated citations that were generated by using Artificial Intelligence (AI). These citations were added by another attorney; however, Mr. Cranford had an obligation to check the citations before signing the motions and filing them with the court. Mr. Cranford failed to act with diligence and caused a delay in his client's case. In addition, Mr. Cranford's conduct was prejudicial to the administration of justice.

By these acts, Mr. Cranford has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4 (misconduct), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

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

Cranford 101333-0 rel.doc