



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: RICKY A. W. CURTIS, BPR #19761
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 20, 2017

SULLIVAN COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On October 17, 2017, Ricky A. W. Curtis, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

In April 2016, Mr. Curtis timely filed a notice of appeal for a client seeking to appeal a criminal sentence. Mr. Curtis did not file a brief in the matter. The court entered an order giving Mr. Curtis 20 days to file the brief. Mr. Curtis received this order, but did not file a brief. The court then ordered Mr. Curtis to appear on a motion for contempt. Mr. Curtis appeared at the contempt hearing. On February 23, 2017, the court found that Mr. Curtis willfully failed to follow court rules and orders and was in contempt of court.

Mr. Curtis' failure to file a brief for his client, or to withdraw from the representation, is in violation of Rules 1.3 (diligence), 3.4(c) (fairness to opposing party and counsel) and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, and he 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.

Curtis 51541-1 rel.doc

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT I
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: RICKY A. W. CURTIS, #19761
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Sullivan County)

FILE NO. 51541-1-ES


PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Ricky A. W. Curtis, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on September 8, 2017.

On April 14, 2016, Mr. Curtis filed a notice of appeal for his client seeking to appeal a criminal sentence. Mr. Curtis did not timely file a brief for his client. The court entered an order on October 18, 2016, giving Mr. Curtis 20 days to file the brief. Mr. Curtis received this order, but did not file a brief. The court then ordered Mr. Curtis to appear on a motion for contempt. Mr. Curtis appeared at the contempt hearing. On February 23, 2017, the court found that Mr. Curtis willfully failed to follow court rules and orders and was in contempt of court.

Mr. Curtis' failure to file a brief for his client, or to withdraw from the representation, is in violation of Rules 1.3 (diligence), 3.4(c) (fairness to opposing party and counsel) and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, and he is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Michael King, Chair

10-17-2017
Date