



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: FRED C. DANCE, BPR NO. 007004
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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September 4, 2026

WILLIAMSON COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

Effective September 4, 2026, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended Fred. C. Dance from the practice of law for five (5) years, with three (3) years to be served on active suspension and the remainder on probation. After considering sanctions imposed in similar cases, the Supreme Court held that Mr. Dance should be suspended rather than disbarred.

A client retained Mr. Dance to represent him and his siblings in a wrongful death action. The case settled for \$20,000, and the defendant issued a check for \$20,000, payable to Mr. Dance's Interest on Lawyer Trust Account ("IOLTA"). Mr. Dance did not promptly disburse the settlement funds to his client. He instead used the funds to pay for personal expenses while ignoring his client's inquiries about the money. Mr. Dance did not disburse any funds to his client for nearly four (4) years. The hearing panel recommended Mr. Dance be disbarred, and the trial court affirmed this finding.

The Supreme Court clarified that it used a de novo standard to review a hearing panel's recommended punishment in an appeal under Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, section 33.1(d). The Court affirmed the hearing panel's finding that disbarment was the presumptive sanction and its application of the aggravating and mitigating factors. The Court reviewed discipline in comparative cases and modified the punishment from disbarment to suspension in the interest of uniformity.

Mr. Dance must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28.1 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.