



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: WAYNE T. DEWEES, BPR #5221**  
**CONTACT: JAMES A. VICK**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

January 28, 2009

**BOLIVAR LAWYER CENSURED**

On January 26, 2009, Wayne T. DeWees, of Bolivar, Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility.

On April 25, 2005, an ex parte hearing was conducted in Hardeman Chancery Court on a Petition for Adoption. Respondent knew about a conservatorship proceeding pending in Shelby County at the time of this hearing. The Chancellor presiding over the adoption hearing was not advised of the conservatorship action, nor that there was any question regarding Respondent's client's competency. The court entered a Final Order of Adoption on April 25, 2005. By Order filed May 8, 2006, the Shelby Probate Court found that Respondent's client was disabled and appointed a conservator. By order filed November 14, 2008, the Hardeman Chancery Court set the adoption aside because the Respondent had failed to disclose material facts that a petition to appoint a conservator for his client was pending and that his client's competency was at issue at the time of the adoption. The Respondent's conduct was in violation of Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3(a) by failing to advise the Chancery Court of Hardeman County of material facts known to the Respondent that would enable the court to make an informed decision regarding the adoption.

For these violations, the Board of Professional Responsibility publicly censures Wayne T. DeWees. A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

DeWees 31400-7 rel.doc

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