July 17, 2007

CHATTANOOGA LAWYER CENSURED

Charles Patrick Dupree, a Chattanooga attorney, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility on July 16, 2007.

The Respondent represented the Complainant in a post-divorce petition for child support arrearage and modification of child support. The parties agreed that the child support would be reduced. The Complainant paid the reduced support for the following sixteen years. The adversary filed a Motion for Contempt alleging that the Complainant had not paid sufficient support. An order reducing the Complainant's child support had never been filed. Because the order reducing child support had not been entered, the court entered judgment against the Respondent's former client in an amount in excess of $20,000.00. It was the Respondent's responsibility to protect his client’s interest by ensuring that the order reducing the child support was properly entered.

A Public Censure is a form of public discipline which declares the conduct of the lawyer improper but does not limit the lawyer's right to practice.

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