



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
of the  
**SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

1101 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 730  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217  
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500  
(800) 486-5714  
FAX: (615) 367-2480  
E-MAIL: [ethics@tbpr.org](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)  
Website: [www.tbpr.org](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: GERALD TODD EIDSON, REG. NO. 17342**  
**CONTACT: THERESA M. COSTONIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

April 21, 2006

**GREENEVILLE LAWYER CENSURED**

Gerald Todd Eidson, a Greeneville attorney, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility on April 20, 2006.

Complainants, Mr. Eidson's former client's parents, are the paternal grandparents of three children, at least one of whom was sexually molested by their mother's boyfriend. Complainants' son, the father, and the children's mother, had joint custody. Complainants' son hired Mr. Eidson with regard to this matter. Complainants and their son assert that they repeatedly urged Mr. Eidson to seek both temporary emergency and permanent custody of their son's children on their son's behalf. Mr. Eidson admits that he told his client that "if any further circumstances arose to let me know immediately so that further pleadings could be filed. I did tell him I would pursue full or temporary custody for him if further circumstances arose." Mr. Eidson said he did not prepare any pleading "that related to custody because no further information was provided to me that, in my opinion that [sic.] gave grounds upon which a pleading could justly be filed seeking a change of custody." Complainants and their son provided Mr. Eidson with names and contact information for witnesses. Mr. Eidson did not contact any of these witnesses, however, nor did he pursue a change of custody, breaching his previous assurance that he would do so if he was presented with additional evidence. The mother accompanied her boyfriend to the hearings in his criminal case. Complainants allege they called Mr. Eidson from the courthouse during one of these hearings to let him know the mother was there, so that he could utilize the opportunity to serve her with a custody petition. Mr. Eidson neglected to do so. Complainants' son accordingly fired Mr. Eidson and hired another attorney. Mr. Eidson's failure to seek custody, despite his promise to do so if information justifying it came to light, when such information had come to light and Complainants and their son had made Mr. Eidson aware of it, constituted a violation of RPC 1.3. In further aggravation of this violation, Mr. Eidson failed to respond to requests for additional

information from Disciplinary Counsel, which also violated RPC 8.1(b). For the aforementioned violations, Gerald Todd Eidson was Publicly Censured.

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.

Eidson 28088-1 rel.doc

**PLEASE NOTE**

**YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES,  
FORMAL ETHICS OPINIONS, NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS  
ELECTRONICALLY BY SIGNING IN AT THE BOARD'S WEBSITE**

**[www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions](http://www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions)**