

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED 04/20/2026 Clerk of the Appellate Courts
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IN RE: MICHAEL FEARNLEY, BPR NO. 011817
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2026-00558-SC-BAR-BP

**ORDER TRANSFERRING ATTORNEY TO
DISABILITY INACTIVE STATUS**

This matter is before the Court upon a notice of contention and petition to transfer Michael Fearnley to disability inactive status filed by the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 27.4.

Upon due consideration of correspondence and medical records provided to the Board by Mr. Fearnley's counsel, the Court concludes that Michael Fearnley currently suffers from a disability by reason of medical infirmity or illness, which disability makes it impossible for him to continue to practice law, or to respond to or defend against pending disciplinary actions under investigative files numbered and identified as 73205-9-ES and 101899-2026-9-ES-INV.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

1. The law license of Michael Fearnley shall be transferred to disability inactive status for an indefinite period of time and until further orders of this Court.
2. All pending disciplinary matters are suspended pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 27.4. The Board may petition this Court to require Mr. Fearnley to submit to examination by an independent qualified medical or mental health expert designated by the Court or provide competent evidence from qualified medical or mental health experts demonstrating his condition continues to prevent him from responding to or defending against pending disciplinary matters.
3. Mr. Fearnley shall comply with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 in all respects and particularly as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28, regarding the responsibilities of attorneys transferred to disability inactive status.
4. Mr. Fearnley shall be allowed to petition for reinstatement to active status pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 27.7.
5. The Board shall publish notice of this transfer pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 27.5 and 28.11.

6. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 32.4, documents other than this Order relating to Mr. Fearnley's disability proceeding shall not be public records and shall be kept confidential.

PER CURIAM