



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: CARLA ANN KENT FORD, BPR #014312
CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 2, 2018

RUTHERFORD COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On October 2, 2018, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Carla Ann Kent Ford from the practice of law for five (5) years. Ms. Ford must pay restitution to two former clients as a condition of reinstatement to the practice of law. Ms. Ford must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days.

On August 11, 2017, the Board filed a Petition for Discipline against Ms. Ford containing three complaints of misconduct. The complaints allege Ms. Ford failed to communicate and diligently represent her clients, and in two of the cases failed to provide written fee agreements. Further, following Ms. Ford's summary suspension in May 2016, Ms. Ford failed to adequately notify her client of her suspension. Ms. Ford did not respond to the Petition for Discipline and an Order for Default Judgment was entered against Ms. Ford.

Ms. Ford's misconduct violates Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (Diligence), 1.4 (Communication), 1.5(a) and (f) (Fees), and 1.16(d) (Terminating Representation).

Ms. Ford must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

10/02/2018

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: CARLA ANN KENT FORD, BPR #014312
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Rutherford County)

No. M2018-01727-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2017-2759-4-AJ

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Carla Ann Kent Ford on August 11, 2017; upon a Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in Petition for Discipline Be Deemed Admitted filed on April 3, 2018; upon an Order for Default Judgment entered April 20, 2018; upon a hearing on May 23, 2018; upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Hearing Panel entered June 13, 2018; upon service of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Hearing Panel on Ms. Ford by the Executive Secretary of the Board on June 13, 2018; upon the Board's Application for Assessment of Costs filed June 14, 2018; upon the Hearing Panel's Findings and Judgment for Assessment of Costs entered July 6, 2018; upon service of the Hearing Panel's Findings and Judgment for Assessment of Costs upon Ms. Ford on July 6, 2018; upon consideration and approval by the Board on August 7, 2018; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves and adopts the Hearing Panel's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as the Court's Order.

On December 22, 2016, Ms. Ford was suspended from the practice of law for four (4) years (Case No. M2016-01035-SC-BAR-BP). To date, Ms. Ford has not requested, nor been granted reinstatement.

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

(1) Carla Ann Kent Ford is suspended from the practice of law for five (5) years pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7, and as a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Ms. Ford shall make restitution to the following individuals and shall furnish to the Board of Professional Responsibility proof of restitution. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Ms. Ford shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount:

- (a) Donald Neel, or his sister, Darlene Neel - \$3,000; and
- (b) Pierre Martin, or his mother, Patoria Hyde - \$900.

(3) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Ms. Ford must be evaluated by the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program, or a comparable organization such as the Vanderbilt Comprehensive Assessment program, and submit the results of such evaluation to the Hearing Panel that presides over her petition for reinstatement.

(4) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Ms. Ford must have met all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this suspension until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(5) Additionally, Ms. Ford shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(6) Should Ms. Ford be reinstated to the practice of law, she will be required to:

- (a) obtain a practice monitor who will be required to report her progress to the Board no less than once every sixty (60) days for a time period as determined by the reinstatement Hearing Panel; and
- (b) complete an additional forty (40) hours of continuing legal education with fifteen (15) of those hours taken through the Tennessee Law Institute, and the remaining twenty-five (25) hours in the areas of law in which she predominately practices.

(7) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(8) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Ms. Ford shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$936.51 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(9) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM