

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT I
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: STEVEN CARL FRAZIER, BPR NO. 007098 FILE NO. 100601-2024-1-TT-INV
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Sullivan County)

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Steven Carl Frazier, #007098, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on March 14, 2025.

Mr. Frazier was retained by a client for representation in a property boundary dispute in Hawkins County. Mr. Frazier received a \$5000 retainer fee from the client, which he deposited directly to his operating account. Because Mr. Frazier did not obtain a writing signed by the client explaining the parties' intent and amount of non-refundable funds the payment was not a non-refundable retainer. As a minimum retainer fee, Mr. Frazier failed to deposit the funds into his trust account and wrongfully commingled the client funds with his own. Mr. Frazier did not track his time nor issue an invoice reflecting the legal services provided to the client nor his fees earned. Mr. Frazier did not communicate to his client the basis or rate of his fee and expenses for which the client would be responsible, making his fee unreasonable. While Mr. Frazier offered to refund

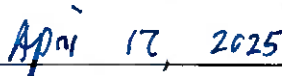
one-half of the client's fees, the offer was after three years following the client's filing of a disciplinary complaint and the fees were never refunded. In addition, while Mr. Frazier was under an obligation to maintain communication with his client until the representation was terminated or complete, he stopped responding to the client's requests for updates and took no further action on the client's behalf.

By these acts, Mr. Frazier has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4(a) (communication), 1.5(a) & (b) (fees), and 1.15(a) & (b) (safekeeping property and funds) and for these violations is hereby Publicly Censured with the condition that he refund to the client \$2,500.00 within 30 days hereof.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



R. Culver Schmid, Chair



Date