

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: BARBARA S. FREEMON, BPR# 12078
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

July 10, 2013

NASHVILLE LAWYER SUSPENDED

On July 5, 2013, the law license of Barbara S. Freemon of Nashville, Tennessee, was suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court for a period of one (1) year pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 4.2. Ms. Freemon was also ordered to pay restitution to a former client as a condition precedent to reinstatement.

A Petition for Discipline was filed against Ms. Freemon on March 8, 2013, based upon two complaints. The first complaint alleged that Ms. Freemon agreed to serve as trustee for an *inter vivos* trust set up to manage her brother's assets. Upon the death of her brother, Ms. Freemon did not return the trust assets to the named beneficiaries. The second complaint alleged that Ms. Freemon accepted a non-refundable fee to represent clients in a codes dispute, promising to file an action within 45 days. Ms. Freemon failed to prepare the written retainer agreement required when accepting a non-refundable fee. Ms. Freemon made several representations to her clients that she was preparing a petition but never prepared or filed any action on their behalf. Despite her failure to perform she refused to refund the full fee to the clients. Ms. Freemon also failed to respond to the Board. Ms. Freemon entered into a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting to the misconduct.

By these acts, Barbara S. Freemon has violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (communication), 1.2 (scope of representation), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds), 8.1 (bar and disciplinary matters), and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

Ms. Freemon was further ordered to pay the expenses and costs of the disciplinary proceedings against her pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 24.3, and fully comply in all respects with the requirements and obligations of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement as set forth in Rule 9, Sections 18 and 19.

Freemon 2194-5 rel.doc

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