



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ROBERT HARRIS GOLDER, BPR #034911
CONTACT: JAMES W. MILAM
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

June 8, 2023

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

Effective June 8, 2023, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended Robert Harris Golder from the practice of law for two (2) years, with three (3) months being an active suspension pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2, and the remainder served on probation conditioned upon engagement of a practice monitor, payment of Board costs, and payment of restitution. The disciplinary action involved three (3) separate complaints.

In the first disciplinary matter, Mr. Golder failed to render competent representation, failed to consult with the client about how best to achieve the client's objectives, failed to reasonably expedite the litigation, failed to reasonably respond to requests from the client regarding the status of the case, failed to deposit unearned fees in his trust account, willfully ignored court orders, and failed to comply with the local rules of court regarding federal *habeas corpus* petitions.

In the second disciplinary matters, Mr. Golder failed to reasonably expedite the client's *habeas corpus* petition and failed to file an amended petition on behalf of his client.

In the third disciplinary matter, Mr. Golder and co-counsel were retained to prosecute a *habeas corpus* action in the Northern District of Mississippi. Mr. Golder, appearing *pro hac vice*, signed co-counsel and local counsel's name to the petition without obtaining the "wet signature" of local counsel, in violation of the local rules of court. Mr. Golder also failed to inform his client that the application for *pro hac vice* admission of co-counsel had been denied by the court.

The Hearing Panel found the conduct of Mr. Golder violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.15 (safekeeping funds and property), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.4 (c) (fairness to opposing party and counsel), and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

Mr. Golder must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.