



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JAMES LLOYD GORDON, #11857
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

August 16, 2006

MEMPHIS LAWYER SUSPENDED

James Lloyd Gordon, a Memphis lawyer, has been suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court filed on August 11, 2006. Gordon was suspended for a period of eleven (11) months and twenty-nine (29) days, with the first ninety (90) days to be served, and the balance of said period probated. The ninety (90) day period of actual suspension will begin on August 21, 2006.

Disciplinary Counsel filed a petition for discipline against Gordon in 2005 pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, and Gordon submitted a conditional guilty plea resulting in the suspension. Gordon's plea was approved by the Hearing Panel, the Board of Professional Responsibility and the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Gordon admitted within his plea that he failed to pay from his escrow account for more than a 3 year period, approximately \$2,165 in a client's settlement funds due a physician pursuant to a lien Gordon signed, on account of his gross negligence and his failure to timely and properly investigate the attendant circumstances. The Board acknowledges that Gordon did ultimately make a proper investigation and paid this physician's claim in April of 2004.

Following the ninety day period of actual suspension, Gordon will be allowed to resume the practice of law without the need for a reinstatement proceeding, while on probation until the end of the eleven month, twenty-nine day period. Gordon is required to allow his escrow account monitor to have access to all records and information necessary to monitor this account, and is required to ensure that his monitor provides monthly progress reports to Disciplinary Counsel during Gordon's probationary period. Further, Gordon is required to specifically review and implement the principles contained in both Board *Formal Ethics Opinion* 89-F-121 and *The ABA Guide to Lawyer Trust Accounts* (Foonberg, 1996), as part of the required monitoring. If Gordon fails to

comply with any condition of his probation, the Board may file a petition seeking the revocation of his probation, and if the Board receives competent affidavit evidence from Gordon's monitor or from another individual with knowledge of additional misappropriations from Gordon's escrow account, the Board may file future petitions seeking the temporary suspension of his law license.

Section 18 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 requires Gordon to notify by registered or certified mail all clients being represented in pending matters; all co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Tennessee Supreme Court's Order suspending his license. Section 18 also requires Gordon to deliver to clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

Gordan 1487-9 rel.doc

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