



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM C. GOSNELL, BPR #4369
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

July 6, 2016

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

Effective July 11, 2016, William C. Gosnell, of Memphis, Tennessee, is suspended from the practice of law for a period of two (2) years by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered July 1, 2016. Mr. Gosnell must pay restitution in the amount of \$600.00 and the costs of the disciplinary matter to the Board and to the Court.

On February 13, 2013, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Gosnell, and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline on September 24, 2013, based upon two (2) complaints of misconduct. In the first matter, Mr. Gosnell advised his client in a personal injury action she could accept full settlement from the opposing party's insurance company without releasing the opposing party. Thereafter, without informing opposing counsel, Mr. Gosnell altered the settlement document to remove the opposing party's name from the release and delayed returning the release to opposing counsel well after disbursing the settlement funds. Suit was filed against Mr. Gosnell and his client to enforce the settlement. In the second matter, Mr. Gosnell filed a Petition for Bankruptcy without his client's signature or consent, in violation of the Bankruptcy Court's rules. Although Mr. Gosnell took appropriate action to dismiss the petition, the filing of the petition was reported to credit agencies and prevented the client from completing the purchase of a house. Mr. Gosnell was sanctioned by the Bankruptcy Court and ordered to disgorge his attorney fee.

Mr. Gosnell's conduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence); 1.4(a) and (b) (communication); 3.3(a) (candor toward the tribunal); 3.4(c) (fairness to opposing party and counsel); and 8.4(a), (c) and (d) (misconduct).

Mr. Gosnell must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 (2006) and 30 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.