



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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OAK RIDGE ATTORNEY CENSURED

On July 25, 2005, Debra Fannin Graham of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, received a public censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility based upon two complaints. Graham was given notice of the censure and did not request a hearing. The first complaint concerned Graham's representation of a juvenile. The Complainants state they paid Graham on January 26, 2005, to represent their son in an Anderson County court case and a Knox County case. Graham failed to appear for the Complainants' son's hearing in Anderson County. Graham did refund the Complainants their \$500 fee.

In the second complaint, a client paid Graham a \$1,500 non-refundable retainer for Graham's representation of the client in a custody case. The client states he stressed to Graham at the time he retained her the urgency of Graham promptly filing an amended petition for custody. After the client hired Graham, she did nothing on his case. Graham's response is that she wrote the client requesting additional information prior to filing the petition. The client states he understood from Graham she would file the petition without the requested information. The client complained that he received no communication from Graham and that she failed to return his calls. Graham provided the client with a \$1,000 refund.

Graham's actions violate Rule 1.3; 1.4; 1.5; 1.16 and 8.4 of the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct. For these violations, the Board publicly censures Graham. The censure declares Graham's actions to be improper ethical conduct but does not limit her right to practice law.

A Public Censure is a form of discipline that declares the conduct of the lawyer improper but does not limit the lawyer's right to practice law.

Graham 28042-27295-2 rel.doc

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