



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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September 26, 2008

CHATTANOOGA LAWYER CENSURED

On September 22, 2008, John Cris Helton, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against John Cris Helton pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. A Hearing Panel heard the matter and issued a Public Censure which was adopted by the Supreme Court. Mr. Helton violated the Rules of Professional Conduct by failing to properly administer an estate and failing to respond to court orders pertaining to the administration of that estate. His actions violated the following Rule(s) of Professional Conduct: 1.1 (Competence), 1.3 (Diligence), 1.5 (Fees), 1.15 (Safekeeping Property), 3.2 (Expediting Litigation), 8.4 (a) and (d) (Misconduct). Mr. Helton is further ordered to pay the costs of the disciplinary proceedings.

For these violations, the Supreme Court of Tennessee publicly censures John Cris Helton. A public censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Helton 1717-3 rel.doc

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