

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED
04/08/2024
Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: JOHN CRIS HELTON, BPR NO. 014339

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(St. Simons Island, Georgia)

No. M2024-00495-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2022-3296-3-EF

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against John Cris Helton on November 28, 2022; upon Respondent's Answer to the Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Helton on March 13, 2023; upon submission of a Conditional Guilty Plea on February 12, 2024; upon the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on February 12, 2024; upon service of the Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea on Mr. Helton by the Executive Secretary of the Board on February 12, 2024; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 8, 2024; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which, the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) John Cris Helton is hereby suspended from the practice of law for five (5) years pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2, with a four (4) year period served as an active suspension, and the remainder served as a probationary suspension, the grant of which is conditioned upon the following:

- (a) During and throughout the one (1) year probationary period, Respondent, at his cost, if any, shall engage a Practice Monitor who shall be selected and approved in accordance with and shall comply with requirements in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.9(c). The Practice Monitor shall meet with Respondent monthly and assess Respondent's case load, case management, timeliness of performing tasks, adequacy of communication

with clients, and accounting procedures. The Practice Monitor shall provide a monthly written report of Respondent's progress to Disciplinary Counsel.

(2) Mr. Helton shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

(3) In the event Mr. Helton fails to meet or maintain any condition of probation, probation may be revoked pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 14.2.

(4) Mr. Helton shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 30.4, regarding the procedure for reinstatement.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Helton shall pay the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs incurred to date by the Board in this matter, including any filing fee assessed by the Court, in the amount of \$1,675.00. All costs, fees, and expenses awarded or assessed herein shall be paid within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order for which execution, if necessary, may issue.

(6) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

(7) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

PER CURIAM