



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JAMES RALPH HICKMAN, JR., BPR #020125
CONTACT: JAMES W. MILAM
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

June 30, 2023

SEVIER COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

Effective June 30, 2023, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended James Ralph Hickman, Jr. from the practice of law for one (1) year with six (6) months active suspension and the remainder on probation, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2. Mr. Hickman must be under the supervision of a practice monitor while on probation and must complete fifteen (15) additional CLE hours in estate management and three (3) additional hours of ethics CLE.

After a hearing upon the disciplinary petition, the Hearing Panel determined Mr. Hickman, while representing a client in a probate matter, failed to establish an appropriate fee arrangement and thereafter collected unreasonably excessive fees; unethically agreed to represent the decedent's estate even though Mr. Hickman's father was the personal representative of the estate, thereby creating an impermissible conflict of interest; knowingly filed a motion before the probate court containing material false statements; knowingly failed to comply with court orders; and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Mr. Hickman's actions and omissions violated Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) 1.5(a) (fees); 3.3(a)(1) (candor toward the tribunal); and 8.4(c) (misconduct).

Mr. Hickman must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

Hickman 3068-1 rel.doc