



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JASON RALPH HINES, BPR #028139**  
**CONTACT: JOSEPH K. BYRD**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

March 29, 2021

**ROANE COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On March 29, 2021, Jason Ralph Hines, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from Supreme Court of Tennessee and was ordered to pay the costs of the disciplinary action to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

Mr. Hines, retained in a post-divorce action, engaged in inappropriate text communications with his client which potentially impaired his professional judgment and that of his client; failed to deposit client funds into his client trust account; provided inappropriate financial assistance to his client; and failed to promptly refund advance payment of unearned fees.

Mr. Hines executed a conditional guilty plea admitting his conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.7(a) (conflict of interest); 1.15 (a) (safekeeping property); 1.8(3) (conflict of interest: prohibited transactions); and 1.16(d) (declining or terminating representation).

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Hines 3115-2 rel.doc

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

**FILED**

03/29/2021

Clerk of the  
Appellate Courts

**IN RE: JASON RALPH HINES, BPR NO. 028139**

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee  
(Roane County)

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**No. 2021-00323-SC-BAR-BP**  
BOPR No. 2020-3115-2-JB

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Jason Ralph Hines on August 24, 2020; upon Answer to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Hines on September 24, 2020; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Hines on March 2, 2021; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on March 3, 2021; upon service of the Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea on Mr. Hines by the Executive Secretary of the Board on March 3, 2021; upon consideration and approval of the Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea by the Board on March 12, 2021; 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 as the Court's Order.

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

- (1) Mr. Hines is publicly censured, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.4.
- (2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.
- (3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d) (2014), Mr. Hines shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,389.40 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein within ninety

(90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

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

PER CURIAM