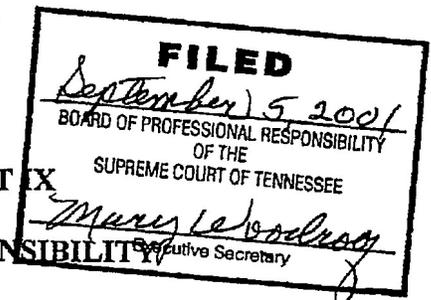


IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT IX
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE



IN RE: THOMAS L. HINSON,
Respondent, An Attorney
Licensed to Practice Law in
Tennessee (Shelby County)

FILE NO. 23719-9-JJ

PUBLIC CENSURE

A complainant was filed against respondent by Pauline Love of Gary, IN. Pursuant to Tenn. S. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered the matter at its June, 2001 Board meeting and determined that issuance of a Public Censure was appropriate.

In February of 2000, Respondent was employed by the complainant to perform a title search of property in Fayette County, complainant having sent respondent a \$250.00 cost deposit. Respondent performed no services for complainant between the Spring through the early Fall of 2000, and he did not return the complainant's phone calls regarding the status of the matter. On September 27, 2000, complainant forwarded to respondent a Certified Mail Return Receipt letter recounting respondent's failure to communicate and discharging him. Complainant also requested respondent to return the retainer and her documents immediately. Respondent received this certified letter on October 2, 2000.

Respondent did not respond to the disciplinary complaint filed herein until after he received four (4) notices and enclosed complaint summaries over nearly a two month period. Respondent was temporarily suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court on May 21, 2001; he did not refund the client's money until May 25 and did not file his initial response to the