



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ANGELA JOY HOPSON, BPR #22500
CONTACT: RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 10, 2014

MADISON COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On April 7, 2014, the law license of Angela Joy Hopson, of Jackson, Tennessee, was suspended by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for one (1) year. The imposition of the sanction was suspended, and Ms. Hopson was placed on probation for one year. Ms. Hopson was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,760.00 and engage the services of a practice monitor. During her period of probation, Ms. Hopson may not incur any new complaints of misconduct that result in a recommendation by the Board that discipline be imposed.

A Petition for Discipline was filed on August 22, 2013, alleging lack of diligence, lack of communication, unreasonable fees, improper termination of representation and misconduct. Ms. Hopson was retained to represent clients in the adoption of a minor child. After determining the child's parents would not consent to the adoption, Ms. Hopson failed to timely prepare the required Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and did not properly communicate with her clients. After the clients retained a new attorney, Ms. Hopson delayed the transfer of the client's file and failed to promptly refund the fee they paid to her. Ms. Hopson entered into a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting she violated Rules of Professional Responsibility 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.5 (fees); 1.16 (declining or terminating representation); and 8.4 (misconduct).

Ms. Hopson must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. Ms. Hopson must pay the Board's costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Supreme Court Order of Enforcement.

Hopson 2246-7 rel.doc

PLEASE NOTE

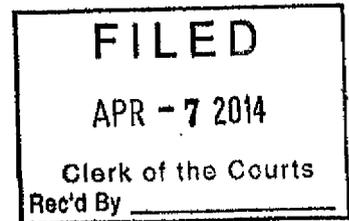
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: ANGELA JOY HOPSON, BPR #22500
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Madison County)

No. M2014-0639-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2013-2246-7-AW



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Angela Joy Hopson on August 22, 2013; upon Response to Petition for Discipline filed by Ms. Hopson on September 16, 2013; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Ms. Hopson on February 27, 2014; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on March 5, 2014; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 14, 2014; and upon the entire record in this cause.¹

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, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that:

(1) Angela Joy Hopson is suspended for one (1) year with the imposition of the sanction suspended, and Ms. Hopson shall be placed on probation for one (1) year pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 4.2 and 8.5. Conditions of said probation are as follows:

(a) Ms. Hopson shall engage the services of a Practice Monitor approved by Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the Board. Ms. Hopson and the Practice Monitor shall meet face-to-face at least monthly and speak by telephone at least weekly. The Practice Monitor shall report Ms. Hopson's progress to Disciplinary Counsel for the Board at least quarterly;

¹ Because this cause was initiated prior to January 1, 2014, it is governed by the pre-2014 version of Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9.

(b) Ms. Hopson shall pay restitution of \$2,760.00 to Bennie and Helen Bond within six (6) months of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

(c) Ms. Hopson shall not, during the period of suspension and probation, incur any new complaints of misconduct that relate to conduct occurring during the period of suspension and probation and result in a recommendation by the Board that discipline be imposed. In the event that Ms. Hopson violates or otherwise fails to meet any condition of the suspension or probation, Disciplinary Counsel shall be authorized to file a petition to revoke Ms. Hopson's probation, and upon a finding that revocation is warranted, Ms. Hopson shall serve the previously deferred period of suspension.

(2) In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Ms. Hopson shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount.

(3) In the event Ms. Hopson fails to meet any condition of probation, the probation may be revoked pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 8.5.

(4) Ms. Hopson shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5, this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3, Ms. Hopson shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$2,106.74 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.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:



CORNELIA A. CLARK, JUSTICE