



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: J. STEPHEN HURST, BPR# 000547
CONTACT: PRESTON SHIPP
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

June 12, 2009

LAWYER CENSURED

On June 8, 2009, J. Stephen Hurst, licensed in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on March 13, 2009.

The Complainant, a Department of Children's Services worker, was in court on March 25, 2008, in response to a subpoena issued by the county prosecutor. The Respondent represented parents from whose custody DCS had removed children. Before court was convened, the Complainant was sitting on the front row of courtroom when the Respondent walked by, stepped on the Complainant's toe, pointed his finger in the Complainant's face, and said something to the effect of, "I've got your number." When the Complainant stood up, the Respondent assaulted the Complainant by bumping and pushing him with his stomach and spitting in the Complainant's face. Bailiffs escorted the Respondent out of the courtroom, and, as he was leaving, the Respondent called the Complainant a foul name.

By the aforementioned facts, J. Stephen Hurst, has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 4.4(a) and 8.4(d) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

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

Hurst 31035-2-DB

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