

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

IN RE: TIFFANY MARCILYNNE JOHNS, #027860
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Williamson County)

FILE NO.: 56608c-6-ES

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Tiffany Marcilynne Johns, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on June 14, 2019.

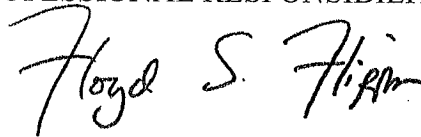
Ms. Johns was hired to defend a client on a petition for contempt for an alleged violation of an order of protection by a neighbor. The neighbor alleged that Ms. Johns' client had improperly sent him text messages. Prior to any evidentiary hearing on the matter, Ms. Johns recommended that her client settle the matter by paying the neighbor's alleged lost wages, without any proof of the wages provided, and the neighbor's attorney fees, in a total amount "up to \$5,000." Ms. Johns and opposing counsel believed an agreement had been reached on these terms, but over the next two weeks, Ms. Johns' client sent her two text messages and an email which indicated she did not believe the matter had been settled.

Opposing counsel provided a draft order for Ms. Johns' approval which held that Ms. Johns' client would pay the neighbor \$5,500. Ms. Johns told opposing counsel to sign her name to the order without providing a copy of it to her client for review.

Ms. Johns' recommendation to settle an alleged violation of a neighbor's order of protection due to a text message for payment of the neighbor's lost wages and attorney fees is in violation of Rule 1.1 (competence) and 1.3 (diligence). Ms. Johns' entry into an order on the matter without providing a copy to her client after her client had indicated in writing three times that she did not understand the matter was final is in violation of Rule 1.3 and 1.4 (communication). Ms. Johns further failed to confirm that her client had timely received a copy of the signed order in violation of Rule 1.4. Ms. Johns' conduct resulted in harm to her client.

By the aforementioned acts, Ms. Johns has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), and 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Floyd S. Flippin, Chair

7-24-19

Date