



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
of the  
**SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JENNIFER M. JOHNSON, BPR NO. 19115**  
**CONTACT: THERESA M. COSTONIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

February 27, 2006

**KNOXVILLE LAWYER SUSPENDED BY SUPREME COURT**

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered February 21, 2006, Jennifer M. Johnson, a Knoxville attorney, was suspended from the practice of law in this state for a period of eighteen months retroactive to March 20, 2002.

A Petition for Discipline had been filed against Ms. Johnson by the Board of Professional Responsibility on July 20, 2001. On or about December 5, 2005, Ms. Johnson entered into a Conditional Plea of Guilty with the Board of Professional Responsibility to resolve the Petition for Discipline in exchange for the eighteen-month suspension. Ms. Johnson, who was employed as an associate with a law firm, misappropriated approximately \$2,700.00 from her employer's general office operating account to her personal use by writing extra payroll checks to herself and forging her employer's signature on them. Ms. Johnson's conduct was mitigated by several applicable mitigating factors, including that she was a relatively young and inexperienced attorney at the time of the conduct, she has no prior record of discipline, she was dealing with serious medical problems and large medical debts at the time of the conduct, she promptly confessed her conduct to her employer and voluntarily made full restitution, is remorseful for her conduct, self-reported her conduct to the Board of Professional Responsibility, and has been cooperative throughout the disciplinary proceeding. Ms. Johnson admitted violating DR 1-102(A)(3)(4)(5)(6) of the Code of Professional Responsibility.

The Court further ordered that Ms. Johnson pay the costs of the disciplinary proceedings and that she comply in all respects with Supreme Court Rule 9, and specifically Section 18 of said Rules, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Ms. Johnson will be reinstated to the practice of law at the expiration of the eighteen-month suspension only upon petition for reinstatement to the Supreme Court and proving by clear and convincing evidence that she has the moral qualifications, competency, and learning in the law required for admission and that her resumption of practice will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice or subversive to the public interest.

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