

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

IN RE: KENT THOMAS JONES, BPR NO. 020158

FILE NO. 61083c-3-ES

Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Hamilton County)

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Kent Thomas Jones, 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 12, 2020.

Mr. Jones received a \$2,000 flat fee for the representation of a client on a DUI. The client signed a written fee agreement that said the fee was a flat fee. The fee agreement did not state that the fee was nonrefundable. On the day of court, however, in September 2017, Mr. Jones appeared late, smelled of alcohol, and was acting erratically. Court personnel removed Mr. Jones from the courthouse, and he was later charged with public intoxication. By email later that day, Mr. Jones agreed to provide his client a full refund. The criminal charges were later dismissed.

In the two and a half years since then, Mr. Jones has made three partial reimbursement payments to his client amounting to \$1,650. Mr. Jones did not keep the fee in his trust account.

By the aforementioned acts, Mr. Jones has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15 (safekeeping funds), 8.4(b) (criminal conduct), 1.5 (fees) and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice). He is hereby publicly censured for these violations with the condition that he refund \$350 to his client within 60 days.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Floyd S. Flippin

Floyd Flippin, Chair

7/6/20

Date