



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JAMES LESTER KENNEDY, BPR #5453
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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July 20, 2017

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On July 20, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending James Lester Kennedy from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2. Mr. Kennedy must pay the Board's costs and expenses within ninety days of the entry of the Order.

Mr. Kennedy served as the executor of an estate that was opened in 1987. In 2009, approximately twenty-two (22) years after the estate was opened, the beneficiaries discovered that the estate had not been closed; that Mr. Kennedy had ignored repeated orders by the Court to appear and settle; and in 2000, the Court had retired the case due to inactivity. After repeated failures to comply with court orders to provide an accounting, the Court found Mr. Kennedy in contempt and removed him as executor.

The hearing panel found that Mr. Kennedy's conduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 3.4 (fairness to opposing party and counsel) and 8.4 (misconduct).

Mr. Kennedy must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.

Kennedy 2618rel.doc