



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: MARY BELLE LANGFORD, BPR #20169
CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

July 11, 2017

DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On July 10, 2017, Mary Belle Langford, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court. As a condition of the Public Censure, Ms. Langford shall make restitution to her client in the amount of \$3,250.00 within 180 days.

Ms. Langford failed to adequately communicate with her client and she failed to submit discovery responses to the opposing party which had been timely provided by her client. Ms. Langford's neglect and failure to appear in court led to a default judgment granted to the opposing party and sanctions assessed against her client in the amount of \$3,250.00.

By these acts, Mary Belle Langford has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), 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.

Langford 51067-5 rel.doc

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

IN RE: MARY BELLE LANGFORD, BPR NO. 20169,
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Davidson County)

FILE NO. 51067-5-KB

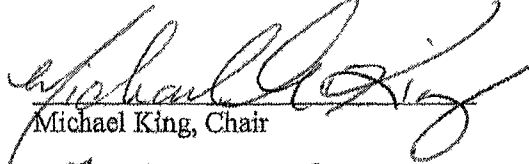
PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Mary Belle Langford, 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 this matter at its meeting on June 9, 2017.

Ms. Langford failed to adequately communicate with her client, Steven Sutherland, and failed to submit written discovery responses to the opposing party which had been timely forwarded to Ms. Langford by Mr. Sutherland. Ms. Langford's neglect and failure to appear in court led to a default judgment granted to the opposing party and sanctions assessed against Mr. Sutherland in the amount of \$3,250.00.

By these acts, Mary Belle Langford has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations. As a condition of the Public Censure, Ms. Langford shall reimburse to Mr. Sutherland the sanctions assessed against him in the amount of \$3,250.00 within 180 days.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY


Michael King, Chair

7-10-2017
Date