



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: H. OWEN MADDUX, BPR #515**  
**CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

August 14, 2013

**CHATTANOOGA LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On August 9, 2013, H. Owen Maddux, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was suspended for nine (9) months by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Maddux alleging that he committed ethical misconduct in his representation of Theodore Hayes and Nancy Hayes, plaintiffs in a civil action regarding a business dispute with the partner of Mr. Hayes' company. In an effort to collect money due to the company, Mr. Maddux sent letters to customers demanding that payment be made directly to him and that he would deposit the funds into the Court pending a resolution of the business dispute. Instead of depositing the funds into the Court, Mr. Maddux gave the money to his client. Further, Mr. Maddux did not notify the opposing party that the funds had been collected until after he made the distribution to his client and a motion had been filed seeking payment of the funds into the Court.

After a full hearing, a Hearing Panel recommended that Mr. Maddux be suspended for nine (9) months. Mr. Maddux appealed the Hearing Panel's recommendation to the Chancery Court of Hamilton County. The Chancery Court affirmed the Hearing Panel's decision. Mr. Maddux appealed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court affirmed the Chancery Court's judgment in an opinion filed on August 9, 2013.

Mr. Maddux's actions violate the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.15(b), Safekeeping Property; 4.1, Truthfulness and Candor in Statements to Others; and 8.4(a) and (c), Misconduct.

Mr. Maddux must comply with Section 18 of Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. Further, he is ordered to pay to the Board all expenses and costs of this matter.

Maddux 1896-3 rel.doc

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