



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: LEE WILSON MCDUGAL, BPR #025557**  
**CONTACT: TIFFANY D. TANT-SHAFER**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

January 7, 2026

**SUMNER COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On January 7, 2026, Lee Wilson McDougal, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. McDougal was appointed counsel to a parent in a dependency and neglect juvenile proceeding involving allegations of severe abuse. Following the adjudicatory hearing, Mr. McDougal complied with the client's request to file a *de novo* appeal but thereafter failed to inform his client of the Court's adjudication and final disposition, failed for ten (10) months to consult with his client about the means to achieve his goals on appeal, failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the appeal status, and failed to comply with the client's reasonable, ongoing requests for copies of discovery, case information, and his client file. Upon being notified of the client's request that he withdraw his services, Mr. McDougal delayed his withdrawal from the case for at least four (4) months. There was substantial potential harm to the client in that a finding of severe abuse in a dependency and neglect case is a ground for terminating a parent's constitutional rights to their child, such that Mr. McDougal's ongoing failure to communicate during the *de novo* appeal potentially put his client's rights in jeopardy.

By these acts, Mr. McDougal has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2 (scope of representation and allocation of authority between client and lawyer), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds), 1.16 (declining or terminating representation), and 8.4(d) (misconduct), 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.