

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

IN RE: LEE WILSON MCDOUGAL, BPR NO. 025557
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Sumner County)

FILE NO.
100754-2024-6-TT-INV

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Lee Wilson McDougal, #025557, 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 December 12, 2025.

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.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

R. Culver Schmid
R. Culver Schmid, Chair

January 7, 2026
Date