

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

IN RE: TERRANCE EARL MCNABB, BPR NO. 002592  
Respondent, an attorney licensed  
to practice law in Tennessee  
(Cheatham County)

FILE NO.  
100656-2024-6-TT-INV

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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The above complaint was filed against Terrance Earl McNabb, #002592, 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 September 12, 2025.

In April 2024, Mr. McNabb was hired to file a child custody modification with the Robertson County Juvenile Court. In failing to adequately review the court file from the 2021 custody proceedings, Mr. McNabb failed to determine that the case involved a claim for paternity that was never resolved, that an *ex parte* temporary custody order was entered with no statutory 72-hour hearing, that his client had never been served, and that no final order was ever entered. Therefore, when Mr. McNabb filed a Petition to Modify Custody Order, he failed to assert multiple constitutional claims that by law may have resulted in the temporary order being thrown out based on lack of service and lack of validity past 72-hours allowed for an *ex parte* order. Mr. McNabb also failed to raise a claim for failure to prosecute and for father's lack of parentage being established, which under Tennessee law could have resulted in an immediate return of custody to

his client. Mr. McNabb's failure to assert these various claims and defenses resulted in lost opportunity for his client, as once he filed the petition to modify, the court treated it as a counter-petition to the 2021 petition. Mr. McNabb's actions also resulted in financial harm to his client who paid an unnecessary filing fee and additional attorney fees to a second attorney to address Mr. McNabb's errors.

By these acts, Mr. McNabb has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4(a) (communication), and 8.4(d) (misconduct), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Culver Schmid", is written over a horizontal line.

R. Culver Schmid, Chair

A handwritten date "9-18-25" in blue ink is written over a horizontal line.

Date