



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JAMES THOMAS NEAL, BPR #6838
CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

March 1, 2018

HAMILTON COUNTY LAWYER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

On March 1, 2018, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended James Thomas Neal from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Neal misappropriated funds and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public. Mr. Neal also represented a client in a medical malpractice case that was dismissed. Instead of telling the client that the case had been dismissed, he falsely stated that the case had settled and gave the client a worthless check for the client's share of the fictitious settlement. Section 12.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney's license to practice law in cases of an attorney misappropriating funds or otherwise posing a threat of substantial harm to the public.

Mr. Neal is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases, and he must cease representing existing clients by March 31, 2018. After March 31, 2018, Mr. Neal shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Neal must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court's Order suspending his law license. Mr. Neal is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

Mr. Neal must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 12.3(d), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of temporarily suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Neal may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

03/01/2018

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: JAMES THOMAS NEAL, BPR #6838
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Hamilton County)

No. M2018-00359-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2018-2834-3-WM-12.3

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

This matter is before the Court on a Petition of the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, by and through Disciplinary Counsel, for the temporary suspension of James Thomas Neal from the practice of law, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3. The Petition has been authorized by the Chair of the Board of Professional Responsibility and is supported by the Affidavits of Preston Shipp, Disciplinary Counsel, and Cindy Shipley.

Based upon the Petition and the supporting Affidavits, the Court finds that James Thomas Neal, Respondent, has misappropriated funds and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public, as detailed by the Affidavits of Preston Shipp, Disciplinary Counsel, and Cindy Shipley.

IT IS THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

1. James Thomas Neal is hereby temporarily suspended from the practice of law as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3.
2. James Thomas Neal shall comply with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 in all respects and particularly as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28, regarding the responsibilities of suspended attorneys.
3. James Thomas Neal may make application for dissolution or modification of this Order as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3.
4. The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this suspension of James Thomas Neal to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM