



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JOSEPH BRENT NOLAN, BPR# 15237**  
**CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

June 29, 2015

**KNOX COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On June 26, 2015, Joseph Brent Nolan, of Knoxville, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for six (6) months. In addition, Mr. Nolan must make restitution as a condition of his reinstatement. The order was effective upon entry. Mr. Nolan must pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

Mr. Nolan delegated sole responsibility for management of his trust account to his mother, a nonlawyer employee. She used the trust account, without his knowledge, in order to pay the expenses of his law practice and other businesses owned by Mr. Nolan. As a result, a client did not receive all the proceeds of a settlement to which he was entitled and a subrogation claim was not paid. Mr. Nolan failed to communicate adequately with the client and failed to provide him with a settlement statement. Mr. Nolan's failure to adequately supervise his nonlawyer employee was addressed in a related matter and he is currently serving a two (2) year suspension, with one (1) year active suspension and one (1) year on probation.

Mr. Nolan's actions violated RPC 1.4 (communication), 1.5(c) (fees), 1.15(a) and (d) (safekeeping property and funds), 5.3 (responsibilities regarding nonlawyer assistants) and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

Mr. Nolan must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.