



**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.

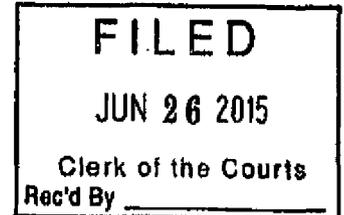
Mr. Nolan's actions violated RPC 1.4 (communication), 1.5(c) (fees), 1.15(a) and (d) (safekeeping property and funds), 5.3 (responsibilities regarding nonlawyer assistants) and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

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.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: JOSEPH BRENT NOLAN, BPR #15237
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Knox County)

No. M2015-01149-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2014-2383-2-WM



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Joseph Brent Nolan on October 17, 2014; upon Joseph Brent Nolan's Answer to Petition for Discipline filed on November 12, 2014; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Nolan on June 1, 2015; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on June 2, 2015; upon consideration and approval by the Board on June 12, 2015; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

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

(1) Attorney Joseph Brent Nolan is suspended for six (6) months, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2 (2014). This suspension will run concurrently to his current, two-year suspension.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7 (2014), and as a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Mr. Nolan shall enter into a promissory note with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee to satisfy its subrogation claim which fully releases Jeffrey Wellman and pay restitution to Mr. Wellman in the amount of \$11,120.60. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Mr. Nolan shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount.

(3) Additionally, Mr. Nolan shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

(4) While suspended, Mr. Nolan remains obligated to fulfill all CLE requirements and to pay annual registration fees. Mr. Nolan must meet all CLE requirements and pay all annual registration fees prior to petitioning for reinstatement.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1 (2014), this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d) (2014), Mr. Nolan shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$243.13 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11 (2014).

PER CURIAM