



**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
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: TOMMY JOE NORTON, BPR #032282
CONTACT: MAUREEN F. HUGHES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 15, 2025

SEVIER COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On April 15, 2025, Tommy Joe Norton, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Norton represented two separate clients in custody cases; another client in civil contempt claim; and a fourth client in a divorce case. During these representations, Mr. Norton closed his office and changed his phone number. Mr. Norton failed to inform his clients of these changes which caused all his clients to have no way to contact him. In all four cases, Mr. Norton failed to maintain communication with his clients and failed to diligently represent his clients.

Additionally, in the first case, Mr. Norton failed to appear in court and incorrectly advised his client not to appear. In the second case, Mr. Norton asked for multiple continuances which delayed the proceedings. In the fourth case, Mr. Norton essentially abandoned his client and failed to show up in court.

By these acts, Mr. Norton has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.4 (fairness to opposing party and counsel), and 8.4(d) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Norton 74514-1 rel.doc