

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

IN RE: TOMMY JOE NORTON, BPR NO. 032282  
Respondent, an attorney licensed  
to practice law in Tennessee  
(Sevier County)

FILE NOS. 74514-1-MH;  
100072-2024-1-MH-INV;  
100146-2024-1-MH-INV;  
100190-2024-1-MH-INV

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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The above complaints were filed against Tommy Joe Norton, #032282, 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 March 14, 2025.

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.

FOR THE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



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R. Culver Schmid, Chair



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Date