



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: GARY NEIL PATTON, BPR #003878**  
**CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

May 22, 2023

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

Effective May 22, 2023, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended Gary Neil Patton from the practice of law for one (1) year with thirty (30) days being an active suspension and the remaining served on probation pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court, Rule 9, Section 12.2. During the probationary period, Mr. Patton shall incur no new complaints of misconduct that relate to conduct occurring during the period of suspension and probation and which results in the recommendation by the Board that discipline be imposed.

A Petition for Discipline consisting of one (1) complaint was filed by the Board alleging Mr. Patton failed to reasonably communicate with his client; collected a fee for work he performed without filing a motion for approval of the fee in violation of the rules of the Probate Court and failed to maintain the same in his trust account prior to receiving approval of the court; obtained a release of liability from his client without advising his client, in writing, of the desirability of seeking independent counsel; and engaged in unprofessional conduct through inappropriate conversations with his client in violation of Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.7 (conflict of interest), 1.8 (h) (conflict of interest), and 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds). Mr. Patton, upon being ordered to do so, promptly paid into Court the fee he had received for the work he performed.

Mr. Patton must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.