

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

IN RE: ELIZABETH LEE YOUMANS, BPR NO. 021955
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Wilson County)

FILE NO.
101271-2025-4-TT-INV

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Elizabeth Lee Youmans, #021955, 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 September 11, 2026.

In 2017, Clients retained Ms. Youmans for a termination of parental rights (“TPR”) and stepparent adoption case. The TPR was finalized in April 2018. Following the TPR, Clients indicated they did not wish to pursue the adoption at the time. Ms. Youmans took no action to dismiss the petition or withdraw her representation, and the matter remained pending for six years. After being served with notice of the open file and a status review set by the Court, Ms. Youmans’ law partner agreed to take any necessary action in the case, filing a motion to voluntarily dismiss the case containing Ms. Youmans’ signature. Neither Ms. Youmans nor her partner consulted Clients prior to such filing. For the six months thereafter that the case was pending, pleadings, orders, and emails were all directed to Ms. Youmans as attorney of record,

yet she never followed up on the status of the case. Ms. Youmans took no action to contact her clients, opposing counsel, the Guardian ad Litem, or the Court, which the Court noted in its orders, and also took no action to withdraw. She failed to notify her clients of multiple court dates and the order to show cause. The Court found Ms. Youmans' failure to communicate resulted in court-appointed counsel spending significant time on the matter. The Court found the attempted voluntary dismissal was improper, set aside the TPR order, restored biological mother's parental rights, and entered sanctions against Clients including their payment of mother's attorney fees totaling \$6,420.00, GAL fees, and all costs associated with resolving the case. Clients also had to pay their new attorney \$5,000.00.

By these acts, Ms. Youmans has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.2(a) (scope of representation and allocation of authority between client and lawyer), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4(a) (communication), 1.16 (declining or terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4(d) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



R. Culver Schmid, Chair

10/6/2026

Date