



**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](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JOSHUA HOWARD POLK, BPR #021647**  
**CONTACT: TIFFANY D. TANT-SHAFER**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

July 9, 2025

**WAYNE COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On July 9, 2025, Joshua Howard Polk, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Polk was retained to defend clients in a water rights case out of Wayne County Chancery Court. In early 2022, a third party joined the litigation and upon consulting with his clients, Mr. Polk determined that a conflict of interest was created by the joinder. The information that Mr. Polk previously learned from his former co-counsel could have materially impacted his continued representation of his current clients and there was a risk that the information Mr. Polk gained would materially limit his ability to continue in the case. This created a concurrent conflict of interest and a mandated withdrawal by Mr. Polk. While it was reasonable for Mr. Polk to want to help his clients identify subsequent counsel, he waited fourteen (14) months to withdraw resulting in unnecessary delay in the litigation, halting any progress on the case, and postponing a hearing on the opposing party's Motion for Summary Judgment that had been pending for several months.

By these acts, Mr. Polk has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.7(a)(2) (conflict of interest), 1.16(a) (declining or terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 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.