



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: MARGARET JANE POWERS, BPR #007328**  
**CONTACT: STEVEN J. CHRISTOPHER**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

April 13, 2026

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On April 13, 2026, Margaret Jane Powers, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Ms. Powers agreed to represent a client in probating an estate. Ms. Powers' usual practice was to charge a security retainer and obtain the client's signature on a fee agreement confirming that the retainer was nonrefundable. Due to an inadvertent office error, no fee agreement was signed by the client. After undertaking the representation, Ms. Powers delayed in taking action for the client. After being discharged, Ms. Powers declined to refund the unearned portion of her security retainer despite being aware that no fee agreement had been signed by the client providing that the fee was nonrefundable. Ms. Powers also delayed in returning prepaid litigation expenses to the client.

By these acts, Margaret Jane Powers has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), RPC 1.5(f) (fees), 1.15 (safeguarding client property), and 1.16(d) (duties following withdrawal or discharge) 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.

Powers 101558-4 rel.doc