



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

IN RE: Margaret Jane Powers, BPR No. 007328
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Cumberland County)

FILE NO. 101558-2025-4-SC-INV

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Margaret Jane Powers, #007328, 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 13, 2026.

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.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Culver Schmid, Chair



Date