



**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
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: BILLY J. REED, BPR #5644
CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

May 7, 2015

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On May 4, 2015, Billy J. Reed, of Knoxville, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law for three (3) years, retroactive to the date the Supreme Court entered an Order of Temporary Suspension, January 17, 2014. Mr. Reed was ordered to make restitution to four former clients or the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection. Finally, Mr. Reed must pay the costs and expenses incurred by the Board. The Court ordered Mr. Reed to contact the Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program ("TLAP") and follow any recommendations.

A Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. Reed containing six (6) complaints of misconduct. In the first complaint, Mr. Reed failed to adequately communicate with his client after a settlement was reached. By the time the case came to a conclusion, he stopped communicating with his client. In the second complaint, Mr. Reed failed to adequately communicate with his client concerning her requests to begin litigation in a real estate dispute. In the third complaint, Mr. Reed filed a Petition for Conservatorship on behalf of his client; however, he failed to communicate with her or to complete the case. In the fourth complaint, Mr. Reed represented his clients through a trial and appeal of a boundary dispute. After the appeal, his clients were entitled to recover costs. Mr. Reed stopped communicating with them and he failed to schedule a hearing to recover the costs. In the fifth complaint, Mr. Reed was hired to represent his client in a wrongful foreclosure case. The client was unable to communicate with Mr. Reed about his case and ultimately had to hire new counsel. In the final complaint, Mr. Reed was hired to represent his client in a real estate dispute. Mr. Reed failed to respond to motions and he failed to adequately represent his client.

A Hearing Panel for the Board of Professional Responsibility found that Mr. Reed's actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (Diligence); 1.4 (Communication); 1.5(a) (Fees); 1.16(d) (Declining and Terminating Representation); 3.2, (Expediting Litigation); 8.1(b) (Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters), and 8.4(a) and (d) (Misconduct).

Mr. Reed must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. The effective date of the Court's Order is May 4, 2015.

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