



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

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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.

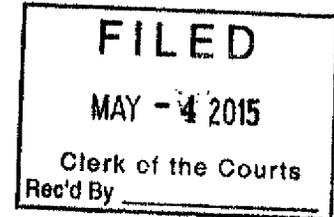
A Hearing Panel for the Board of Professional Responsibility found that Mr. Reed's actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (Diligence); 1.4 (Communication); 1.5(a) (Fees); 1.16(d) (Declining and Terminating Representation); 3.2, (Expediting Litigation); 8.1(b) (Bar Admission and Disciplinary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

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: BILLY J. REED, BPR #5644
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Knox County)

No. M2015-00804-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2014-2344-2-KH



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Billy J. Reed on July 24, 2014; upon a Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed by the Board on September 29, 2014; upon an Order of Default entered by the hearing panel on October 21, 2014; upon final hearing held on December 19, 2014; upon Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law entered by the hearing panel on February 2, 2015; upon consideration and approval by the Board of Professional Responsibility on March 13, 2015; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.¹

From all of which the Court approves the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the hearing panel and adopts it as the Court's Order.

Further, on January 17, 2014, Mr. Reed was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3 (2006) (Case No. M2014-00101-SC-BPR-BP). To date, Mr. Reed has not requested, nor been granted reinstatement.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

1. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 4.2 (2006) and 12.2 (2014), Billy J. Reed is suspended from the practice of law for three (3) years, retroactive to January 17, 2014, the date of his temporary suspension.
2. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 4.7 (2006) and § 12.7 (2014), Mr. Reed shall be required to make restitution to the following individuals. Payment of

¹This case includes matters initiated before the Board prior to January 1, 2014 and after January 1, 2014. Therefore, both the 2006 and 2014 versions of Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 are applicable.

restitution is a condition precedent to reinstatement. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection ("TLFCP"), Mr. Reed will be responsible for reimbursement to the TLFCP of the same amount:

- (a) Mary Brooks - \$10,000.00
 - (b) Phyllis Branum - \$1,750.00
 - (c) Christopher Hill - \$6,900.00
 - (d) Rebecca Bailey - \$1,000.00.
3. Further, Mr. Reed shall be required to contact the Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program ("TLAP") for evaluation. If TLAP determines that a monitoring agreement is appropriate, Mr. Reed shall comply with the terms and conditions of the TLAP monitoring agreement.
 4. Additionally, Mr. Reed shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 18 (2006), 28 (2014) and 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement. Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Reed must meet all CLE requirements and pay any outstanding registration fees including those due from the date of suspension until the date of reinstatement.
 5. Further, the Order of Temporary Suspension entered on January 17, 2014, in Case No. M2014-00101-SC-BPR-BP is hereby dissolved.
 6. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 24.3 (2006) and 31.3 (2014), Mr. Reed shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$582.77 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.
 7. The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 18.10 (2006) and 28.11 (2014).

PER CURIAM