



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

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

February 3, 2016

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

On February 2, 2016, Billy J. Reed, formerly of Knoxville, Tennessee, was disbarred from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court and ordered to make restitution to two former clients. The order is effective upon entry. Mr. Reed must pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety (90) days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

A Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. Reed consisting of two (2) complaints alleging Mr. Reed accepted fees but performed no material legal services, made material misrepresentations to his clients and abandoned his practice. In the first matter, Mr. Reed accepted \$15,000 to represent a client in a will contest. Over the course of four years, Mr. Reed did little legal work, failed to communicate, and failed to appear at the trial. After being terminated by the client, Mr. Reed failed to refund unearned fees. In the second complaint, Mr. Reed accepted a \$1,500 fee to file an emergency child custody proceeding. Mr. Reed never filed the emergency petition, failed to reasonably communicate with his client, misrepresented the petition had been filed and fraudulently required the client to reimburse him \$200 for filing fees. Mr. Reed abandoned his clients and his practice without proper or sufficient notice to his clients and failed to respond to the Petition for Discipline or appear at trial.

Mr. Reed's conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication); 1.16(d) (declining and terminating representation); 3.2 (expediting litigation); 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters); and 8.4 (a), (c), and (d) (misconduct).

Mr. Reed must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.