



**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.

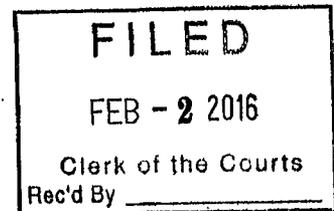
Mr. Reed's conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication); 1.16(d) (declining and terminating representation); 3.2 (expediting litigation); 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters); and 8.4 (a), (c), and (d) (misconduct).

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.

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. M2016-00200-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2015-2454-2-AW



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Billy J. Reed on May 19, 2015; upon the Board's Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted, filed August 7, 2015; upon the hearing panel's Order for Default Judgment entered September, 4, 2015; upon the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Judgment entered by the hearing panel on November 5, 2015; upon service of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Judgment upon Mr. Reed by the Executive Secretary for the Board on November 5, 2015; upon consideration and approval by the Board on December 11, 2015; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court accepts the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Judgment filed by the hearing panel and adopts the same as the Court's Order.

On May 4, 2015, Mr. Reed's license to practice law was suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 4.2 (2006) and 12.2 (2014) for a period of three years, retroactive to the date of a temporary suspension on January 17, 2014. (Case No. M2015-00804-SC-BPR-BP).

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

- (1) Billy J. Reed is disbarred pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1 (2014).
- (2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7 (2014), and as a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Mr. Reed shall make restitution to the following individuals and shall furnish to the Board of Professional Responsibility proof of restitution. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Mr.

Reed shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount:

- (a) Mary Lou Anderson, \$15,000.00
- (b) Jessica Robinson, \$1,700.00

(3) Prior to filing a petition for reinstatement, Mr. Reed must meet all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this disbarment until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(4) Mr. Reed shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1 (2014), this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(6) Mr. Reed 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, § 28.11 (2014).

PER CURIAM