



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JAMES FOSTER SCHAEFFER, JR., BPR #006862**  
**CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

November 9, 2021

**SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

Effective November 9, 2021, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended James Foster Schaeffer, Jr., from the practice of law for one (1) year with thirty (30) days being served as an active suspension pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2, and the remainder served on probation subject to Mr. Schaeffer making restitution to his former client and incurring no new complaints of misconduct that relate to conduct occurring during the period of suspension and probation that result in the recommendation by the Board that discipline be imposed.

A Petition and Supplemental Petition for Discipline containing two complaints were filed by the Board. In the first complaint, Mr. Schaeffer was retained to represent his client in an uncontested divorce. After preparing the Marital Dissolution Agreement, his client's spouse would not sign it and the divorce became contested. Mr. Schaeffer did not adequately communicate with his client, and the case was ultimately dismissed for failure to prosecute. In the second complaint, Mr. Schaeffer represented his client in a criminal case. Mr. Schaeffer was not diligent in providing his client a copy of the state's discovery.

Mr. Schaeffer executed a conditional guilty plea acknowledging his conduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 8.1 (disciplinary matters), and 8.4 (a) and (d) (misconduct).

Mr. Schaeffer must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

Schaeffer 3106-9 rel.doc