



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WENDY NICOLE VILLAFANA, BPR #24770
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 18, 2012

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On April 18, 2012, Wendy Nicole Villafana, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Villafana was hired by a client to file a cancellation of deportation. The application for cancellation was never filed. At the hearing, Villafana told the client that he had not provided sufficient information to prevail in a cancellation request, and she felt that a voluntary departure was the best result for him. During the representation, Villafana failed to reasonably communicate with her client.

Villafana violated Rule 1.3 by failing to file the client's application for cancellation with the court and failing to diligently prepare for the hearing. She violated Rule 1.4 by failing to promptly inform the client about the alleged weakness in his case and failing to respond to his requests for information.

By the aforementioned acts, Wendy Nicole Villafana violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (Diligence) and 1.4 (Communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Villafana 33726 rel.doc

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IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT IX
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

FILED

2012 APR 18 PM 3:48

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY

Rew EXEC. SEC.

IN RE: WENDY NICOLE VILLAFANA, BPR NO. 24770
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

FILE NO. 33726-9-KB

PUBLIC CENSURE

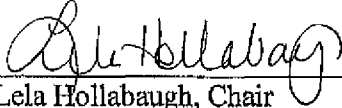
The above complaint was filed against Wendy Nicole Villafana, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on March 9, 2012.

Ms. Villafana was hired by a client to file a cancellation of deportation. Ms. Villafana sent a letter to the client reminding him of the court date. The application for cancellation of deportation was never filed. At the hearing, Ms. Villafana told the client that he had not provided sufficient information to prevail in a cancellation request, and she felt that a voluntary departure was the best result for him. During the representation, Ms. Villafana failed to return the client's phone calls.

Ms. Villafana violated Rule 1.3 by failing to file the client's application for cancellation with the court and failing to diligently prepare for the hearing. She violated Rule 1.4 by failing to promptly inform the client about the alleged weakness in his case and failing to respond to his requests for information.

By the aforementioned acts, Wendy Nicole Villafana has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (Diligence) and 1.4 (Communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Lela Hollabaugh, Chair

April 17, 2012

Date