



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220  
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027  
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500  
(800) 486-5714  
FAX: (615) 367-2480  
E-MAIL: [ethics@tbpr.org](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)  
Website: [www.tbpr.org](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: PAUL JAMES SPRINGER, SR., BPR #21267**  
**CONTACT: RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

June 24, 2016

**SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

Effective July 3, 2016, Paul James Springer, Sr., of Memphis, Tennessee, is suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for a period of two (2) years and sixty (60) days. Mr. Springer must serve a minimum active suspension of sixty (60) days, and the suspension shall continue indefinitely until Mr. Springer pays restitution in the amount of \$10,000, engages a practice monitor for the duration of his probation, completes six (6) additional hours of continuing education, and obtains professional liability insurance in coverage amounts of \$100,000/\$200,000. Mr. Springer must pay costs of the disciplinary matter to the Board and to the Court and must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 (2006) and 30 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. Mr. Springer may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.

On November 2, 2012, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Springer based upon two (2) complaints of ethical misconduct. In the first matter, Mr. Springer used his trust account over a period of approximately five (5) years to pay personal and business expenses. In the second matter, Mr. Springer settled a personal injury action and retained \$100,000 to pay medical and judgment liens for his client, litigation expenses and his attorney fee. Mr. Springer was notified by the client she continued to receive medical bills, but Mr. Springer took no action to pay the bills. After receiving more bills, the client demanded an accounting to which Mr. Springer failed to comply. Thereafter, the client demanded certain settlement funds and notified Mr. Springer she would assume responsibility for the outstanding medical bills and judgment. Mr. Springer refused to release settlement funds to the client and never satisfied the outstanding medical bills or judgment.

Mr. Springer's conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.5(c) (fees); 1.15(a), (b), (d) and (e) (safekeeping property and funds); 8.1(b) (disciplinary matters) and 8.4(a) and (d) (misconduct).

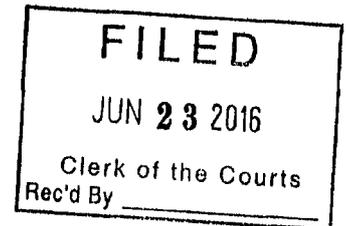
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

**IN RE: PAUL JAMES SPRINGER, SR., BPR #21267**  
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee  
(Shelby County)

---

**No. M2016-01120-SC-BAR-BP**  
BOPR No. 2012-2170-9-SG

---



**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Paul James Springer, Sr., on November 2, 2012; upon the Response to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Springer on January 2, 2013; upon the Hearing Panel's Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law filed on January 2, 2014; upon the Board of Professional Responsibility's Motion to Alter or Amend the Judgment of the Hearing Panel Entered January 2, 2014, filed on February 3, 2014; upon the Hearing Panel's Order to Show Cause filed on February 10, 2014; upon Mr. Springer's Response to Order to Show Cause filed on February 20, 2014; upon the Hearing Panel's Amended Order filed on February 26, 2014; upon consideration and approval of the Hearing Panel's judgment by the Board on March 14, 2014; upon Mr. Springer's Petition for Certiorari filed on April 28, 2014, in the Chancery Court for the Thirtieth Judicial District at Memphis; upon the April 6, 2015 Order of the Chancery Court affirming the decision of the Hearing Panel; upon the Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court filed on September 22, 2015 (M2015-01111-SC-BAR-BP) remanding the matter; upon the Amended Motion to Accept Late Filed Appeal or in the Alternative to Make Factual Findings to Allow the Tennessee Supreme Court to Determine Whether A Late Appeal Shall be Allowed filed by Mr. Springer in the Chancery Court on July 6, 2015; upon the Order Granting Amended Motion to Accept Late Filed Appeal filed on November 24, 2015; upon the Motion to Alter or Amend the Court's Order Affirming the Hearing Panel's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law filed by Mr. Springer in the Chancery Court on December 23, 2015; upon the Order of the Chancery Court filed on February 18, 2016; upon the Order of the Chancery Court denying the Motion to Alter or Amend entered on February 29, 2016; upon the Notice of Appeal filed by Mr. Springer on March 28, 2016; upon the Order to show cause filed by the Tennessee Supreme Court on April 28, 2016; upon the Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court dismissing the appeal filed on May 13, 2016; upon the Motion to Reconsider and Reinstate Appeal filed by Mr. Springer on May 25, 2016; upon the Order denying the Motion to Reconsider and Reinstate Appeal filed on May 25, 2016; and upon the entire record in this cause.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> This matter was initiated prior to January 1, 2014, and is governed Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 (2006) except as otherwise noted.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Chancery Court for the Thirtieth Judicial District at Memphis and the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law and Amended Order as the Court's Order.

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

1. The law license of Paul James Springer shall be suspended for a total period of two (2) years and sixty (60) days. Mr. Springer shall serve a minimum of sixty (60) days as an active suspension and thereafter indefinitely until completion of the following enumerated conditions:

i) Proof of the tender of payment of \$10,000 in restitution to Ms. Barnes pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 4.2 and 4.7 (2006).

ii) The engagement of a practice monitor, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.9, to monitor Mr. Springer for the two (2) year period of probation to assure his compliance with trust account rules, accounting procedures, and best office management practices. The practice monitor shall be approved by the Board and shall make such reports to the Board as it deems necessary. All expenses related to the establishment and conduct of such practice monitor, including any fees for the practice monitor, shall be borne by Mr. Springer.

iii) Mr. Springer shall enroll in and certify his completion of a practice and professional enhancement program focusing on practice management and accounting that includes not less than six (6) hours of continuing legal education certified for credit by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education.

iv) Mr. Springer shall obtain professional liability insurance in the amount of at least \$100,000/\$200,000 covering his handling of escrow and trust funds on behalf of clients and maintain said coverage during his probation. Mr. Springer shall provide proof to the Board that said coverage is in effect during the period of probation.

Upon satisfactory completion of conditions i-iv hereinabove and the sixty (60) day period of active suspension, Mr. Springer may then serve the remainder of his suspension on probation.

2. In the event Mr. Springer fails to meet any condition of probation, the probation may be revoked pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 8.5 (2006).

3. Mr. Springer shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 18 (2006) and 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended

attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement. Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Springer must meet all CLE requirements, pay all court costs due and owing, pay all Board costs due and owing, and pay any outstanding professional privilege taxes and registration fees including those due from the date of suspension until the date of reinstatement.

4. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5 (2006), this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

5. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3 (2006), Mr. Springer shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$5,557.11 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.

6. 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).

PER CURIAM