



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: PAUL JAMES SPRINGER, BPR #021267**  
**CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

March 27, 2020

**SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED**

Effective March 26, 2020, the Supreme Court of Tennessee disbarred Paul James Springer from the practice of law and ordered him to pay restitution to his client in the amount of \$150,000.00. A Petition for Discipline consisting of two (2) complaints was filed November 26, 2018.

After a hearing upon the disciplinary petition, a Hearing Panel determined Mr. Springer misappropriated settlement funds belonging to his client, made material misrepresentations to his client, failed to reasonably communicate with his client, engaged in the unauthorized practice of law, failed to notify clients of his suspension and withdraw as attorney of record, and engaged in criminal conduct as well as conduct involving dishonesty, deceit, misrepresentations and fraud. Mr. Springer's professional misconduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence); 1.2 (scope of representation and allocation of authority between client and lawyer); 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.7 (conflict of interest); 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds); 1.16 (declining or terminating representation); 4.2 (communication with a person represented by counsel); 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law); 8.1 (bar admission and disciplinary matters); and 8.4 (a), (b), (c), and (g) (misconduct).

Mr. Springer 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

FILED

03/26/2020

Clerk of the  
Appellate Courts

**IN RE: PAUL JAMES SPRINGER, BPR #021267**

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee  
(Shelby County)

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**No. M2020-00404-SC-BAR-BP**  
BOPR No. 2018-2940-9-AW

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Paul James Springer on November 26, 2019; upon Motion for Default Judgment and That Charges in Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed March 5, 2019; upon entry of an Order for Default Judgment on March 26, 2019; upon the filing of a Sealed Motion for Stay of Hearing on June 19, 2019; upon Mr. Springer filing a Motion Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 27.4 on June 19, 2019; upon the Court entering its Order requiring Mr. Springer provide medical documentation within ten (10) days to support his request for disability inactive status filed on June 20, 2019; upon the Court entering its Order denying Mr. Springer disability inactive status on July 23, 2019; upon the Notice of Filing entered on July 24, 2019; upon the Hearing Panel entering its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on November 1, 2019; upon the Executive Secretary of the Board mailing a copy of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law to Mr. Springer on November 1, 2019; upon the Board's Application for Assessment of Costs filed November 18, 2019; upon the Hearing Panel's Findings and Judgment for Assessment of Costs on December 18, 2019; and upon the Executive Secretary of the Board mailing a copy to Mr. Springer by on December 18, 2019; upon consideration and approval by the Board on February 13, 2019; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.

On March 13, 2020, Mr. Springer filed a motion to stay the order of enforcement and instead remand the matter to the hearing panel for a hearing on a pending motion for new trial. Also on March 13, 2020, Mr. Springer filed an objection to the proposed order of enforcement and motion to remand the matter to the hearing panel. On March 19, 2020, this Court ordered the Board to file a response within ten days. The Board filed its response on March 23, 2020. Upon review of both motions and the Board's response, this Court finds that both motions should be DENIED.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as the Court's Order.

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

(1) Paul James Springer is disbarred from the practice of law pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct., R., § 12.1.

(2) Paul James Springer shall make restitution to Dr. Angela Middleton in the amount of \$150,000.00, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R., § 12.7, and that payment of restitution shall be a condition precedent to the filing of any petition for reinstatement.

(3) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Springer must have met 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) Additionally, Mr. Springer shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

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

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Springer shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,424.99 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.

(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.

PER CURIAM