

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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ROBERT PAUL STARNES, BPR #21022
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 18, 2016

## SULLIVAN COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On October 14, 2016, Robert Paul Starnes, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Starnes repeatedly exposed himself to an employee at his law office. In April 2016, Mr. Starnes pleaded no contest to indecent exposure (Class B misdemeanor) for his conduct.

By these acts, Mr. Starnes is in violation of Rule 8.4 (b) (criminal conduct that reflects adversely on fitness to practice) of the Rules of Professional Conduct and is hereby publicly censured for this violation. A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Starnes 45753-1 rel.doc