



**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
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM PRESTON SUTHERLAND, BPR #2437
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 21, 2016

DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On April 13, 2016, William Preston Sutherland, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Within ninety (90) days, Mr. Sutherland shall pay restitution to the client for fees paid and funds borrowed in an amount of \$5,456.71, and provide proof of such payment to Disciplinary Counsel.

Mr. Sutherland's law license was suspended in 1997 and has never been reinstated. After the suspension of his license, Mr. Sutherland did investigative and legal work for one client and billed the client \$4,435.42 for the work, which the client paid. Mr. Sutherland also borrowed \$1,021.29 from the client for his personal expenses and failed to repay the loan.

By these acts, William Sutherland has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law) and 1.8 (conflict of interest, business transaction). Mr. Sutherland is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations. A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Sutherland 42177-5 rel.doc