



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION

RE: JAMES F. TAYLOR, BPR #18998

Contact: William W. "Tripp" Hunt, III, Disciplinary Counsel
Board of Professional Responsibility
(615) 361-7500, ext. 218

April 17, 2006

MOUNT CARMEL LAWYER CENSURED

On April 3, 2006, the Board of Professional Responsibility issued a public censure to James F. Taylor, who practices law in Mount Carmel. On June 14, 2000, the complainant retained Mr. Taylor to represent him relative to aggravated assault charges being brought in Washington County. The complainant paid Mr. Taylor \$3,700. The fee contract provides that if the "services of the attorney are terminated or dispensed with for any cause other than the attorney's inability to perform, the fee paid remains deemed earned and no part returned . . . If some unforeseen event should develop which prevents the attorney from continuing to represent the client, such portion of the fee paid that exceeds services rendered shall be returned . . ." On June 22, 2000, Mr. Taylor appeared at a bond reduction hearing for the complainant.. Mr. Taylor also filed a motion for discovery, made arrangements for a transcript, secured a plea deadline date, and negotiated a plea offer. The complainant was dissatisfied with the plea offer and insisted on going to trial. Mr. Taylor then withdrew. There was no refund of fees, even though the complainant requested a partial refund. Mr. Taylor states that he withdrew because of the complainant's "dissatisfaction with my services." . . . Mr. Taylor further states that his contract provided that he could keep the entire fee if he were terminated for reasons other than an inability to perform. Mr. Taylor was obliged to allow the matter to proceed to trial, even if such was against his advice.

Mr. Taylor was found to have violated RPC 1.4, 1.5, and 8.4(d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct which governs attorney ethics. This censure does not prevent Mr. Taylor from continuing to practice law.

Taylor 27112c-1 rel.doc

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