

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT II  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: WILLIAM JAMES TAYLOR,  
BPR No. 26742  
Respondent, an attorney licensed  
to practice law in Tennessee  
(Knox County)

FILE NOS. 37791c-2-ES, 41996c-2-ES

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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The above complaints were filed against William James Taylor, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 11, 2015.

In the first file, Mr. Taylor represented a client in a breach of contract action against a former employer. Mr. Taylor failed to respond to a motion for summary judgment which was then granted. Mr. Taylor agreed to appeal the judgment but filed the notice of appeal untimely, resulting in the dismissal of the appeal. The cost of the appeal was taxed to the client and was left unpaid for over two years. At the request of Disciplinary Counsel, Mr. Taylor paid the cost of appeal. Mr. Taylor also filed a motion to withdraw from the appeal, which stated that he had advised the client the appeal would be a "waste of time" and the client "had failed to comply with Rules of Civil Procedure and discovery, failed to be cooperative with me, and his conduct has rendered it unreasonably difficult, if not impossible, for me to carry out my employment effectively." During the course of the representation, Mr. Taylor sent at least four documents including court filings to

the client's incorrect mailing address, resulting in significant delays of communication.

In the second file, Mr. Taylor settled a personal injury matter for a client in September 2013. After Mr. Taylor had communicated the agreement to opposing counsel and entered a stipulation of dismissal, the client changed her mind. After one letter to his client setting forth the facts of the agreement, Mr. Taylor failed to respond to the client and failed to communicate with opposing counsel. The funds were not distributed. In the course of the disciplinary complaint investigation, the funds were distributed and Mr. Taylor waived his fee.

By the aforementioned acts, Mr. Taylor violated Rules 1.3 (diligence), Rule 1.4 (communication), 1.6 (confidential information), 1.16 (terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice). Two clients suffered actual and potential harm as a result of Mr. Taylor's actions.

Mr. Taylor is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

  
Michael King, Chair

March 24, 2016  
Date