

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

FILED
2011 JAN 21 PM 3:00
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY
RW EXEC. SEC'Y

IN RE: GEORGE H. THOMPSON, III, BPR NO. 3024
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Davidson County)

FILE NOS. 33228-5-RW
33296c-5-RW

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaints were filed against George H. Thompson, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 10, 2010.

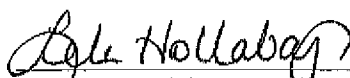
In the first complaint, the client retained Respondent in October 2009 for a probate matter and paid him \$1,000. Thereafter, Respondent failed to return the client's telephone calls or reply to a certified letter with his complaints. As a result, the client obtained other counsel.

In the second complaint, the client retained Respondent in April 2009 for a medical malpractice action arising out of a September 27, 2008 surgery. On September 9, 2009, Respondent sent letters to the potential health care provider defendants giving them statutory notice of a potential claim. In the letters, Respondent requested the document(s) the client signed consenting to the removal of his colon. When Respondent received the consent forms and spoke with the insurance carrier representative, Respondent explained to the client that it was his opinion that the claim did not have merit and he would not pursue it. However, Respondent did not mention the statute of

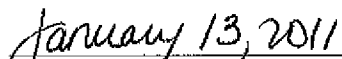
limitations. Respondent wrote the client a March 26, 2010, letter explaining the status of his research and declining the case, but again he did not mention the statute of limitations. When he accepted the case in April 2009, Respondent should have known the statute of limitations deadline was on or about September 27, 2009. Respondent's letter to the potential defendants extended the statute date by four months, which would have been approximately January 27, 2010. Respondent sent the client a March 26, 2010, letter declining the case approximately two months after the statute of limitations ran. Respondent's actions foreclosed the client's right to find another lawyer before the running of the statute and his claim was lost. Respondent has past disciplinary history for similar conduct recited herein.

By the aforementioned facts, George H. Thompson, has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence) and 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Lela M. Hollabaugh, Chair



Date