



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM STEVEN TAYLOR, BPR #14163
CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

June 14, 2017

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On June 14, 2017, William Steven Taylor was publicly censured by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. As conditions of his public censure, Mr. Taylor must engage a practice monitor, undergo an audit of his trust account, replace funds in his trust account, open a new trust account and obtain one additional hour of continuing legal education in the mechanics of trust accounting. Mr. Taylor must pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

Mr. Taylor represented a client in a workers compensation matter. He deposited the proceeds of a settlement to his trust account. He was to use a portion of those funds to pay one of his client's health care providers. He failed to timely pay the provider, failed to retain those funds in his trust account, and kept inadequate trust accounting records.

Mr. Taylor's ethical misconduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15, Safekeeping Property and Funds; and 8.4, Misconduct.

Taylor 2668-9 rel.doc

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: WILLIAM STEVEN TAYLOR, BPR #14163

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2017-01189-SC-BAR-BP

BOPR No. 2016-2668-9-WM

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against William Steven Taylor on December 29, 2016; upon Attorney William Steven Taylor's Amended Answer and Response to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Taylor on January 13, 2017; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Taylor on March 22, 2017; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on March 29, 2017; upon consideration and approval by the Board on June 9, 2017; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

- (1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.4, William Steven Taylor is publicly censured.
- (2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.8, as conditions of the public censure, Mr. Taylor must comply with the following:
 - (a) Within thirty (30) days of the execution of the Conditional Guilty Plea, engage the services of a certified public accountant at his cost for the purpose of performing an audit of his existing trust account for the two-year period prior to execution of the Conditional Guilty Plea.
 - (b) Engage a practice monitor for a period of one (1) year who shall be selected and approved in accordance with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.9(c). Mr. Taylor shall provide a list of potential practice monitors for selection by the Board within fifteen (15) days of entry of this order.

- (c) The Practice Monitor shall meet with Mr. Taylor monthly to supervise Mr. Taylor's compliance with trust account rules and accounting procedures and provide a monthly written report to Disciplinary Counsel.
 - (d) Within sixty (60) days of the execution of the Conditional Guilty Plea, deposit \$516.59 of his funds to his existing trust account.
 - (e) During 2017, obtain an additional one (1) hour of CLE on the mechanics of trust accounting in addition to the required 15 hours of CLE.
 - (f) Within ten (10) days of the execution of the Conditional Guilty Plea, open a new IOLTA trust account. Thereafter, any deposits of client funds shall be made to the new account. Mr. Taylor shall utilize his existing trust account solely for the purpose of distributing the funds in the account at the time the new account is opened.
 - (g) Provide Disciplinary Counsel with proof of compliance of these conditions.
 - (h) Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in further proceedings pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9.
- (3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.
- (4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Taylor shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$584.46 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.
- (5) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM