



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: CHRISTOPHER PAUL WESTMORELAND, BPR #24789
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 19, 2015

BEDFORD COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On October 15, 2015, Christopher Paul Westmoreland, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Westmoreland was appointed to represent a client on two criminal matters which resulted in convictions. In the first matter, Mr. Westmoreland timely filed an appeal but neglected to timely file the appellate brief. Mr. Westmoreland filed a motion to accept the late-filed brief which was granted, but the Court cautioned Mr. Westmoreland about complying with the Rules of Appellate Procedure and Orders of the Court. In the client's second matter, Mr. Westmoreland neglected to timely file the notice of appeal. Several months later, Mr. Westmoreland filed a motion to accept the late-filed notice of appeal which was granted. No activity took place on the appeal for at least four months until the clerk notified Mr. Westmoreland that the record had not been received. Thereafter, the record was filed, briefs were filed, and the appeal was submitted on briefs. Mr. Westmoreland also failed to timely respond to requests for information from his client.

By these acts, Mr. Westmoreland violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.4(c) (fairness to opposing counsel), and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice).

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.