



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM LEE WHEATLEY, BPR #22339
CONTACT: PRESTON SHIPP
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 14, 2014

SEVIER COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On January 6, 2014, William Lee Wheatley, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Wheatley failed to maintain reasonable communication with his client after he was appointed to represent him in dependency and neglect proceedings. Mr. Wheatley did not communicate with his client until after the filing of the present disciplinary complaint.

By these acts, William Lee Wheatley, has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), and 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

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

Wheatley 36451-1 rel.doc

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

IN RE: WILLIAM LEE WHEATLEY, BPR NO. 22339
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Sevier County)

FILE NO. 36451-1-PS

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against William Lee Wheatley, 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 6, 2013.

After Mr. Wheatley was appointed counsel in dependency and neglect proceedings, Mr. Wheatley failed to communicate with his client although his client made several attempts to contact him. Mr. Wheatley did not communicate his client until after the filing of the present disciplinary complaint. Mr. Wheatley was previously issued public discipline for failure to communicate with clients.

By the aforementioned acts, Mr. Wheatley violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), and 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Russ Parkes, Chair

1/6/14

Date