



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: HAL WILKES WILKINS, BPR #17830
CONTACT: ALAN JOHNSON
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 29, 2015

DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

On January 28, 2015, Hal Wilkes Wilkins, of Nashville, Tennessee, was disbarred from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Mr. Wilkins was previously disbarred in another case on July 22, 2014. Mr. Wilkins was ordered to pay restitution to a former client, or to the Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection, if appropriate, in the amount of \$17,990.00. Finally, Mr. Wilkins must pay the Board's costs and expenses.

A Petition for Discipline was filed on July 3, 2014, that included three (3) complaints of misconduct. In one case, Mr. Wilkins informed his client that he had reached a settlement, but ceased communicating with the client thereafter. His client retained another lawyer to complete the settlement on her behalf. In another case, Mr. Wilkins agreed to represent his client on a contingency fee basis and did not enter into a written fee agreement. After he filed the complaint, he ceased communicating with the client. In the third case, Mr. Wilkins settled a personal injury case on behalf of his client in the amount of \$30,000.00. He tendered a check to his client in the amount of \$12,100.00, and told her that he would use the remainder to pay her medical bills and his fee. He did not provide his client with a settlement sheet and failed to pay the subrogation claims. In all three cases, Mr. Wilkins abandoned his clients and did not inform them that he had been temporarily suspended from the practice of law on December 2, 2013.

Mr. Wilkins' actions violated RPC 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property), 1.16(d) (declining or terminating representation), and 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters). By failing to notify his client, opposing counsel and the court of his temporary suspension, Mr. Wilkins violated Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006). Mr. Wilkins must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.