

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

1101 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 730 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217 TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500 (800) 486-5714 FAX: (615) 367-2480 E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM T. WINCHESTER, BPR# 21282
CONTACT: RACHEL L. WATERHOUSE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 24, 2011

MEMPHIS LAWYER CENSURED

On January 21, 2011, William T. Winchester, of Memphis, Tennessee, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility.

In October 2003, Mr. Winchester filed an answer and a motion to dismiss civil litigation on his client's behalf. Mr. Winchester's motion to dismiss was set but continued several times for various reasons. Mr. Winchester failed to re-set his motion. Mr. Winchester failed to appear at a hearing on adverse party's motions, which resulted in a default judgment being entered against his client in March 2010, more than seven years after the case began. Also, the court clerk was unable to locate Mr. Winchester between January and December 2009, which violates court rules to keep a current address on file.

Mr. Winchester's actions violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication) and 3.2 (expediting litigation).

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

Winchester 33010-9 rel.doc

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IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICTIX OF THE

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: WILLIAM T. WINCHESTER, BPR NO. 21282

Respondent, an attorney licensed

to practice law in Tennessee

FILE NO. 33010-9-KS

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against William T. Winchester, 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 October 2003, Respondent filed an answer and a motion to dismiss civil litigation on his client's behalf. Respondent's motion to dismiss was set but continued several times for various reasons. Respondent failed to re-set his motion. Respondent failed to appear at a hearing on adverse party's motions, which resulted in a default judgment being entered against his client in March 2010, more than seven years after the case began. The case was not dismissed prior to the March 2010 default judgment, as Respondent contends. Also, the court clerk was unable to locate Respondent between January and December 2009, which violates court rules to keep a current address on file. The court has never had a P.O. Box listed for Respondent, despite Respondent's contention.

By the aforementioned facts, William T. Winchester, has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication) and 3.2 (expediting litigation) and is hereby Publicly

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Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Lela M. Hollabaugh, Chair

January 13, 2011