



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: MICHAEL H. SNEED, BPR # 11141
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NASHVILLE LAWYER SUSPENDED

Michael H. Sneed, a Nashville lawyer, was suspended from the practice of law by order of the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered on December 13, 2000. Sneed was suspended for a period of six (6) months effective immediately. He was also suspended for an indefinite period of time ending upon completion of prescribed education courses on general legal ethics and law office management.

It was the Court's stated intent that Sneed's indefinite suspension would be concurrent with the six month suspension so that he might complete the courses during that time. The Court stated that if the education requirements were not completed within the six month suspension Sneed would remain suspended. If the requirements are met within the six month period Sneed shall be automatically reinstated to the practice of law.

Sneed was disciplined based on two complaints of misconduct. In both cases Sneed was found to have neglected client's legal matters, to have failed to act with diligence and promptness and to have failed to keep clients reasonably informed. Both clients suffered adverse consequences as a result of Sneed's failure to act or prepare adequately. In one case, the client's appeal of a criminal conviction was delayed a period of years. In the other case, three clients had their case dismissed as a result of Sneed's neglect and inaction.

In the latter case, the Court found that Sneed intentionally damaged and injured his clients. He was also found to have intentionally or habitually disregarded court rules and orders.

The Court found that Sneed had six prior disciplinary actions for similar misconduct. The Court also found that the discipline imposed in this case was fair and proportionate.

Under the rules of court Mr. Sneed must notify by registered mail all clients, all opposing counsel and all judges before whom he has pending cases of the Court's Order of Suspension. During the suspension period, Sneed is precluded from representing any client in a legal matter. He may not maintain a presence in a place where law business is conducted nor appear in any court representing a client. Sneed should not hold himself out to the public as a lawyer, law clerk or legal assistant during the suspension.