



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: EDWARD L. SWINGER, BPR #14162
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NASHVILLE LAWYER SUSPENDED FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW

Edward L. Swinger, a Nashville lawyer, was suspended from the practice of law by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court on May 17, 2002. Mr. Swinger's suspension was for eleven months, twenty-nine days, retroactive to October 27, 1999. Swinger has been continually suspended since 1999, therefore, the effect of the judgment is to automatically reinstate him to the practice of law.

A hearing panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility recommended the discipline imposed after a hearing. The Board approved the decision of the hearing panel and the Supreme Court adopted the judgment of the hearing panel as the judgment of the Court.

The cause of the suspension was the entry of a guilty plea to a serious crime by Swinger. The plea was a "best interest" plea pursuant to a law that places the defendant on probation and upon successful completion of probation allows the party to be discharged and the matter to be expunged (records destroyed.) Swinger completed the probation period successfully, was discharged by the criminal court and he intends to have the matter expunged from the public records.

The hearing panel found that Swinger engaged in conduct that adversely reflected on his fitness to practice law. The panel also found that he violated Ethical Canon 9 which states: "A lawyer should avoid even the appearance of professional impropriety."

The disciplinary rules are mandatory for all attorneys. They state a minimum level of conduct and any violation reflects negatively on the standing and integrity of the bar.

CH:mw

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