



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

LANCE B. BRACY
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

LAURA L. CHASTAIN
DEPUTY CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

BEVERLY P. SHARPE
CONSUMER COUNSEL/DIRECTOR

1101 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 730
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480

WILLIAM W. HUNT, III
CHARLES A. HIGH
SANDY GARRETT
JESSE D. JOSEPH
JAMES A. VICK
THERESA M. COSTONIS

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: GERALD STEVE JOHNSON, BPR #14627
CONTACT: WILLIAM W. HUNT, III
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

July 14, 2003

LAW LICENSE OF JOHNSON CITY ATTORNEY SUSPENDED

On July 10, 2003 the Supreme Court entered an order suspending the law license of Gerald Steve Johnson of Johnson City. Mr. Johnson's law license is suspended for at least 6 months. It cannot be reinstated until a law office management expert evaluates his office and certifies that Mr. Johnson has complied with all of her recommendations.

The Board of Professional Responsibility received ten complaints which evidenced a pattern of neglect by Mr. Johnson, as well as insufficient communications with his clients. For instance, he failed to return phone calls or otherwise be available for his clients to speak with him. He represented clients in divorce cases and failed to timely file final orders. He also failed to file required certificates of service in his bankruptcy cases. He failed to timely file other pleadings as well. Mr. Johnson's law license was suspended for a short period of time due to his failure to take sufficient Continuing Legal Education Courses, and he failed to notify his clients of this suspension.

Disciplinary Counsel filed formal charges against Mr. Johnson, pursuant to Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court. Mr. Johnson and Disciplinary Counsel entered into a settlement agreement which is reflected in this suspension. The agreement was approved by a Hearing Committee of the Board of Professional Responsibility, the Board of Professional Responsibility, and the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

WWH:mw