



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

of the

SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: MICHAEL W. EDWARDS, BPR #2721
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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February 26, 2004

HENDERSONVILLE ATTORNEY CENSURED

On October 11, 2002, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed formal disciplinary charges against Michael W. Edwards, of Hendersonville, Tennessee, based on two complaints. On November 14, 2003, a Hearing Panel appointed by the Supreme Court issued its Findings and Recommendations recommending Edwards receive a Public Censure; requiring Edwards to utilize a written employment agreement for each client; requiring Edwards to attend a minimum of six hours Continuing Legal Education, and requiring Edwards to satisfactorily complete an Anger Management Course approved by the Board. Edwards was given notice of the Hearing Panel's Findings and Recommendations and did not appeal.

Regarding the first complaint, the Hearing Panel found Edwards violated DR 1-102(A)(1) and (5), and DR 7-105(A) by conveying to a client a threatening note for the purpose of seeking additional payment for services provided. There was no written employment agreement setting forth the terms of representation between Edwards and the client. Regarding the second complaint, the Hearing Panel found Edwards violated DR 1-102(A)(1) and (5) and DR 2-110(A)(2) by Edwards failing to adequately and properly protect his client as a sequence of Edwards' withdrawal which resulted in the client being harmed. The conditional censure declares Edwards' actions to be improper ethical conduct, but does not limit Edwards' right to practice law.

SG:mw

Edwards 1340 rel.doc