



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

LANCE B. BRACY
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

LAURA L. CHASTAIN
DEPUTY CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

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

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

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: RICHARD H. CRAWFORD, BPR #8007
CONTACT: LAURA L. CHASTAIN
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

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LAW LICENSE OF MEMPHIS LAWYER SUSPENDED

On July 2, 2001, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending the law license of Richard H. Crawford for a period of two years. Mr. Crawford filed a false statement under oath that he was licensed to practice law in the State of Tennessee when actually he had been placed on inactive status at his request and in July, 1999 he filed a petition with the Tennessee Supreme Court to be returned to active status with his petition being denied. Crawford was engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and represented a client in a domestic violence case and advised that client to plead guilty even though she informed Respondent that she had acted in self-defense. The client later found out that Crawford had been on inactive status since 1992. The client was able to hire another attorney and have her guilty plea set aside and ultimately she was acquitted after the trial.

Disciplinary Counsel, acting on authority of the Board of Professional Responsibility, filed a Petition For Discipline against Crawford. Pursuant to Section 16 of Supreme Court Rule 9, Crawford submitted a conditional guilty plea in exchange for a stated form of discipline. He agreed to be suspended from the practice of law for a period of two years; agreed to refund fees in the amount of \$600.0, and agreed to attend the Board of Professional Responsibility's Ethics Workshop at his expense. Crawford's suspension will remain in effect until an Order of Reinstatement is issued by the Court.

Section 18 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 requires Mr. Crawford to notify by registered or certified mail all clients being represented in pending matters; all co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court's Order suspending his license. Section 18 also requires Mr. Crawford to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled. After the term of his suspension, Crawford may apply for reinstatement. However to succeed he must carry the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence that his reinstatement will not be a detrimental to the integrity and standing of the Bar or the administration of justice or subversive to the public interest.

LC:mw

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