



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JAMES RADFORD SMITH, BPR #21017**  
**CONTACT: STEVEN J. CHRISTOPHER**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

July 2, 2019

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On July 1, 2019, James Radford Smith, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Smith agreed to represent a client in a pending petition for post-conviction relief. Mr. Smith failed to obtain consent from his client before accepting fees from a third party and did not maintain good communication with his client throughout the representation. After entering appearance in the action, Mr. Smith failed to file an amended petition by the deadline prescribed by the Court and filed an untimely appeal after the petition was denied. After completing the representation but still in possession of the client file, Mr. Smith decided to close his law office. The client file was inadvertently destroyed by the moving company hired by Mr. Smith in connection with the closure of his law office due to Mr. Smith's failure to specify the client files and other office documents that needed to be preserved.

By these acts, James Radford Smith has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence); 1.3 (diligence); 1.4(a) (communication); 1.8(f) (payment of fees by a third party without client consent); 1.15 (safekeeping client property); and 3.2 (expediting litigation) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Smith 41990c-4 rel.doc