FILED
03/27/2020
Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

No. ADM2020-00428

ORDER SUSPENDING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY'S PROCEEDINGS AND EXTENDING DEADLINES

Consistent with the Tennessee Supreme Court's COVID-19 Pandemic Orders entered March 13, 2020, and March 25, 2020, the functions and operations of the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee (the Board) shall be modified as follows:

1. The Board of Professional Responsibility remains open and shall continue to provide services, while balancing the health and safety of Board staff, volunteer Hearing Committee Members, respondent attorneys and the public.

2. Board of Professional Responsibility in-person formal proceedings are suspended through April 30, 2020; by agreement, such proceedings may be conducted during the period of suspension by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or other means that do not involve in-person contact. All deadlines regarding disciplinary proceedings set through April 30, 2020, are continued and a new scheduling order shall be entered. This order expressly encourages and does not prohibit proceeding with matters that can be resolved without in-person proceedings.

3. At the discretion of the Board, Disciplinary Counsel may proceed in accordance with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 regarding emergency matters, such as Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 section 12.3, that arise during the COVID-19 crisis. Any such hearings shall be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, and other necessary persons, in the discretion of the Board. The Board shall ensure that social distancing and other such measures are strictly observed.

4. Time periods and deadlines set forth in Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 10.4 (bar cards); 10.5 and 10.6 (non-payment delinquency notices, fees and suspension) and Rule 43 section 15 (IOLTA delinquency notices, fees and suspension), are extended through April 30, 2020.

This order is intended to be interpreted broadly for protection of the public from risks associated with COVID-19.

It is so ORDERED.

PER CURIAM