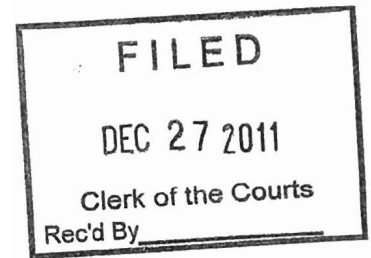




THE TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY



511 Union Street
Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219

JUDGES OF THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

December 21, 2011

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk
100 Supreme Court Building
401 Seventh Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
615-253-1470

Chris Craft
Presiding Judge

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D. Kelly Thomas, Jr.
Thomas T. Woodall

FOR PUBLIC PRESS RELEASE

The Honorable Ronnie Zachary
General Sessions Judge
General Sessions Court of Pickett County
P.O. Box 5
Byrdstown, Tennessee 38549

RE: Complaint File No. 10-4427

Dear Judge Zachary:

This shall serve as a letter of public reprimand pursuant to your agreement with the investigative panel of this court.

The complaint alleges an act or acts by you that violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, in that the complaint asserts that you had imposed a punishment in a case that involved handcuffing a father to a son as a punishment. These acts constituted a potential violation of Canon 1 A and Commentary thereunder; Canon 2 A; and Canon 3 B (2).


Upon receiving notice of the complaint from the Disciplinary Counsel to the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, you responded and admitted that you had imposed the sentence described in the complaint. You have further indicated that you now are aware such a sentence is improper. You have indicated that you intend to ensure that all sentences imposed by you and entered are in fact according to law appropriate under the law.

The imposition of improper and inappropriate sentences in this case is a violation of Canon 2 A which requires that a "Judge shall respect and comply with the law and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary." Canon 3 B (2) also requires that "A judge shall be faithful to the law and maintain professional competence in it."

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Accordingly, this letter constitutes a public reprimand for your actions. In the future, you are to continue to follow the Code of Judicial Conduct in regards punishment.

Sincerely yours,



Chris Craft
Presiding Judge

CC/bep