

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

<p>FILED 10/27/2020 Clerk of the Appellate Courts</p>
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IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

No. ADM2020-00428

**ORDER CONTINUING SUSPENSION OF BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY’S PROCEEDINGS AND EXTENDING DEADLINES**

On March 27, 2020, the Tennessee Supreme Court entered an Order suspending the Board of Professional Responsibility’s (“BPR”) proceedings and extending deadlines through April 30, 2020. On April 24, 2020, the Court suspended in-person proceedings and extended deadlines through May 31, 2020. After the expiration of the April 24, 2020 Order, the Court did not further suspend in-person proceedings or extend deadlines for BPR proceedings.

In light of the ongoing pandemic, and in response to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, this Court hereby orders the following:

1. The Board of Professional Responsibility shall remain open and continue to provide services, while balancing the health and safety of Board staff, Board members, volunteer Hearing Committee Members, respondent attorneys and the public.
2. Board of Professional Responsibility in-person formal proceedings are suspended through February 28, 2021; instead, such proceedings shall be conducted during the period of suspension by telephone, video, teleconferencing, or other means that do not involve in-person contact.
3. Disciplinary counsel or the respondent attorney can request an exception to the suspension of in-person proceedings by filing a petition with the panel or hearing panel assigned to the matter. The petitioner shall provide justification for the necessity of conducting the particular proceeding in an in-person format. The panel or hearing panel shall determine, based on the particular circumstances of that matter and proceeding, whether all or part of a proceeding needs to be conducted in an in-person format. See Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 15.2(f), 19.6.

This order is intended to be interpreted broadly for protection of the public from risks associated with COVID-19. All proceedings shall comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, section 32.1.

It is so ORDERED.

PER CURIAM