

Jason E. Mumpower, Comptroller of the Treasury

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Lebanon Attorney Pleads Guilty After Misappropriating \$479,095 from Clients

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office, working in conjunction with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, has resulted in the guilty plea of Jennifer Porth.

Porth was engaged in a law practice in Lebanon that primarily focused on divorce and family law. She also served as a court appointed conservator to handle the financial affairs of clients who were mentally incompetent or physically incompetent; she additionally served as an administrator of decedents' estates. Porth maintained and controlled client funds in trust accounts.

In August 2022, the Wilson County Grand Jury indicted Porth for one count of theft of property over \$250,000. The Comptroller's Office issued an Investigative Report with findings detailing that Porth misappropriated at least \$254,047 from multiple clients. On February 7, 2023, the Tennessee Supreme Court permanently disbarred Porth from the practice of law.



Following Porth's indictment and arrest in August 2022, the Comptroller's Office received new information indicating that Porth misappropriated funds from five additional clients which resulted in further investigation. During this review period, it was determined that Porth misappropriated client funds totaling at least \$225,048.

Investigators determined Porth withdrew funds from these clients' accounts without explanation or documentation to support the withdrawals. In addition, Porth withdrew funds on behalf of her clients to perform home improvement repairs, but there was no indication that the work was ever performed. Investigators also noted that Porth failed to submit an annual accounting for these estates as required by Tennessee law.

Based upon this investigation, Jennifer Porth entered a guilty plea to two counts of Theft of Property over \$60,000 in Wilson County Criminal Court on December 17, 2024. On September 12, 2025, she was sentenced to ten (10) years. She will be released to supervised probation after serving one (1) year. Porth's law license was permanently forfeited, and she has paid full restitution.

To view the investigative report, go to <u>tncot.cc/doireports</u>. To view a map depicting Comptroller investigations, go to <u>tncot.cc/mappinginvestigations</u>.

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