

CHAPTER 34 ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

GRIEVANCE COMMISSION AND ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Rule 34.1 Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission.

34.1(1) There is hereby created the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission (grievance commission) consisting of 25 attorneys from judicial election district 5C, 15 attorneys from judicial election district 5A, 10 attorneys from judicial election district 6, and 5 attorneys from each other judicial election district, to be appointed by the supreme court. The supreme court will designate one attorney as grievance commission chair. The supreme court will accept nominations for appointment to the grievance commission from any association of attorneys that maintains an office within the State of Iowa or any attorney licensed in Iowa. The grievance commission also consists of no fewer than 5 or more than ~~35~~45 laypersons appointed by the court. Members must serve no more than two three-year terms, and no member who has served two full terms is eligible for reappointment. A member serving as a primary or alternate member of a division of the grievance commission at the time the member's regular term ends must, nonetheless, continue to serve on that division until the division has concluded its duties with respect to the complaint for which the division was appointed.

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34.1(3) A grievance commission member must not represent, in any stage of ~~the an~~ investigative or disciplinary ~~proceedings~~proceeding, any attorney against whom an ethical complaint is filed. A grievance commission member may represent an attorney in a malpractice, criminal, or other matter; however, the member must decline representation of the attorney in any stage of the investigative or disciplinary ~~proceedings~~proceeding and must not participate in any hearing or other proceeding before the grievance commission. These prohibitions extend to attorneys associated in a firm with a grievance commission member with respect to those cases in which the member participates or has participated as a member of a division or as an alternate.

COMMENT: Rule 34.1 formerly appeared at Iowa Court Rule 35.1. It is amended to delete the requirement for annual designation of the grievance commission chair. The requirement for administrative committee review of the annual grievance commission budget also is removed. Responsibility for formulation and submission of the annual budget for the grievance commission is addressed in chapter 49 of the Iowa Court Rules. Jurisdictional requirements are deleted from the rule and replaced by a reference to the new jurisdiction provision in rule 34.10.

Rule 34.2 Grievance commission; vice chair duties. The director of the office of professional regulation must designate a clerk and an assistant clerk for the grievance commission. The director of the office of professional regulation and the grievance commission chair must designate a vice chair. In the chair's absence or inability to act, the vice chair must perform all duties of the chair.

COMMENT: Rule 34.2 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 36.1. It is amended to remove the specific designation of the assistant director for boards and commissions as the grievance commission clerk to provide more flexibility in assignment of duties within the office of professional regulation. The provision for short-form references to the grievance commission is moved to rule 34.1(1).

Rule 34.3 Substitutions and vacancies on the grievance commission.

34.3(1) In the absence of the grievance commission chair and vice chair or inability of the chair and vice chair to perform any of the duties provided in this chapter, the ~~grievance commission~~director of the office of professional regulation may designate some other member as acting chair to perform the duties.

34.3(2) In the absence or inability of a division president to perform any of the duties provided in this chapter, the ~~division chair~~ may designate some other member as acting president to perform the duties. If a vacancy occurs in any division from any cause, the chair, vice chair, or acting chair of the grievance commission must fill the vacancy.

COMMENT: Rule 34.3 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 36.16.

Rule 34.4 Confidentiality of grievance commission.

34.4(1) All records, papers, proceedings, meetings, and hearings of the grievance commission ~~will are be~~ confidential unless the grievance commission recommends that the supreme court reprimand the respondent or suspend or revoke the respondent’s license.

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34.4(3) Any other records and papers of the grievance commission concerning any complaint ~~must remain~~are privileged and confidential and are not subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for their release to a person other than the respondent, the attorneys, or the attorneys’ agents involved in the proceeding before the grievance commission. The respondent, the attorneys, or the attorneys’ agents involved in the proceeding before the grievance commission must not disclose any records and papers of the grievance commission concerning any complaint to any third parties unless disclosure is required in the prosecution or defense of disciplinary charges. The confidential records and papers of the grievance commission concerning any complaint are not admissible in evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding other than the formal grievance commission hearing under rule 36.17.

34.4(4) Every witness in every proceeding under this chapter must swear or affirm to tell the truth and not to disclose the existence of the ~~proceedings~~proceeding or the identity of the respondent until the proceeding is no longer confidential.

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34.4(7) Nothing in this chapter prohibits the grievance commission from releasing any information regarding possible criminal violations to appropriate law enforcement authorities, wherever located, or to attorney disciplinary and bar admission authorities in other jurisdictions, or from releasing any information regarding possible violations of the Iowa Code of Judicial Conduct to the Commission on Judicial Qualifications.

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COMMENT: Rule 34.4 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 36.18. Rule 34.4(8) is added to clarify application of the public disclosure rule to commission recommendations in cases involving respondents not licensed in Iowa.

Rule 34.5 Retention of grievance commission records.

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34.5(2) Notwithstanding any required destruction of documents, the grievance commission will permanently maintain a summary of all grievance matters containing the name of the respondent attorney, the disposition, and the respective dates on which the matter was opened and closed.

COMMENT: Rule 34.5 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 36.19.

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Rule 34.6 Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board.

34.6(1) There is hereby created the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board (disciplinary board). The disciplinary board consists of nine attorney members and three laypersons appointed by the supreme court. The supreme court will designate one of the attorneys as chair. The disciplinary board may appoint a vice chair who must perform all duties of the chair in the chair's absence or inability to act. The supreme court will accept nominations for appointment to the disciplinary board from any association of attorneys that maintains an office within the State of Iowa or any attorney licensed in Iowa. Members ~~must~~may serve no more than two three-year terms, and no member who has served two full terms is eligible for reappointment. Disciplinary board members are appointed commissioners of the supreme court to initiate or receive and process complaints against any attorney within the jurisdiction of the disciplinary board as described in rule 34.10. Upon completion of any investigation, the board must either dismiss the complaint, admonish or reprimand the attorney, or file and prosecute the complaint before the grievance commission or any grievance commission division. The disciplinary board may additionally refer complaints involving attorneys who are not authorized to practice law in Iowa to the commission on the unauthorized practice of law.

34.6(2) A disciplinary board member must not represent, in any stage of ~~the an~~ investigative or disciplinary ~~proceedings~~proceeding, any attorney against whom an ethical complaint is filed. To avoid even the appearance of impropriety, a disciplinary board member should not represent any attorney in any malpractice, criminal, or other matter when it appears that the filing of an ethical complaint against that attorney is reasonably likely. These prohibitions extend to attorneys associated in a firm with a disciplinary board member.

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34.6(4) The director of the office of professional regulation must, at least 60 days prior to the start of each fiscal year or on a date otherwise specified by the supreme court, submit to the supreme court for its consideration and approval a budget covering the operations of the disciplinary board for the upcoming fiscal year. This budget must include proposed expenditures for staff, support staff, office space, equipment, supplies, and other items necessary to administer the responsibilities of the disciplinary board as set out in this chapter. Supreme court approval of the budget authorizes payment as provided in the budget. A separate bank account designated as the ethics operating account of the disciplinary fund must be maintained for payment of authorized expenditures as provided in the approved budget. ~~Moneys~~Funds derived from the annual disciplinary fee set out in Iowa Court Rule 39.5 must be deposited in the ethics operating

account to the extent the supreme court authorizes each year for payment of the disciplinary board's authorized expenditures.

COMMENT: Rule 34.6 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 35.2. It is amended to delete the requirement for annual designation of the disciplinary board chair. The requirement for an administrative committee for review and submission of the annual disciplinary board budget also is removed. Responsibility for formulation and submission of the annual budget for the disciplinary board is placed with the director of the office or professional regulation, which is consistent with the budget provisions for other boards and commissions of the office of professional regulation in chapter 49 of the Iowa Court Rules.

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Rule 34.8 Retention of disciplinary board records.

34.8(1) The disciplinary board must maintain files and records relating to allegations of misconduct by an attorney until destruction is authorized pursuant to the following schedule:

- a. Files and records relating to potential complaints the assistant director ~~dismisses~~ declines to open pursuant to rule 35.4(1) may be destroyed one year from the date of the last action on the file.
- b. Files and records relating to ~~all other~~ complaints the disciplinary board dismisses may be destroyed five years from the date of the last action on the file.
- c. All other files and records relating to allegations of respondent misconduct may be destroyed after death of the respondent.
- d. For purposes of this rule ~~34.8(1)~~, destruction of paper files is permitted immediately after the files have been transferred to computer storage.

34.8(2) Notwithstanding any required destruction of documents, the disciplinary board must permanently maintain a summary of all complaint matters containing the name of the complainant and the respondent, the disposition of the complaint, and the respective dates on which the complaint was opened and closed.

COMMENT: Rule 34.8 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 35.29.

GENERAL DISCIPLINARY RULES OF GRIEVANCE COMMISSION AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

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Rule 34.10 Jurisdiction.

34.10(1) *Attorneys admitted to practice.* Any attorney admitted to practice law in the State of Iowa, including any formerly admitted attorney with respect to acts committed prior to ~~resignation~~, suspension, disbarment, retirement, or transfer to inactive status or with respect to subsequent acts that amount to the practice of law or constitute a violation of the rules of this chapter or of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct or of any rules or code the supreme court subsequently adopts in lieu thereof, any attorney an Iowa court specially admits for a particular proceeding, and any attorney not admitted in Iowa who practices law or renders or offers to render any legal services in Iowa is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Iowa Supreme Court, the disciplinary board, and the grievance commission.

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Rule 34.15 Suspension on conviction of a crime.

34.15(1) Upon the supreme court's receipt of satisfactory evidence that an attorney has pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been convicted of, a crime that would be grounds for license suspension or revocation, the court may temporarily suspend the attorney from the practice of law regardless of the pendency of an appeal. Not ~~less-fewer~~ than 20 days prior to the effective date of the suspension, the attorney must be notified in writing, directed by restricted certified mail to the attorney's last address as shown by the records accessible to the supreme court, that the attorney has a right to appear before one or more justices of the supreme court at a specified time and at a designated place to show cause why such suspension should not take place. Any hearing will be informal and the strict rules of evidence will not apply. The court's decision ~~rendered~~ may simply state the conclusion and decision of the participating justice or justices and may be orally delivered to the attorney at the close of the hearing or sent to the attorney in written form at a later time.

34.15(2) Any attorney suspended pursuant to this rule must refrain, during the suspension, from all facets of ordinary law practice including, but not limited to, the examination of abstracts; consummation of real estate transactions; preparation of legal briefs, deeds, buy and sell agreements, contracts, wills, and tax returns; acting as a fiduciary; and when possible, ~~remove all~~ advertising of the attorney's services or holding out to the public that he or she is a licensed attorney. The suspended attorney may, however, act as a fiduciary for an estate, ~~including a~~ conservatorship, or guardianship, of any person related to the suspended attorney within the second degree of affinity or consanguinity.

34.15(3) For good cause shown, the supreme court may set aside an order temporarily suspending an attorney from the practice of law as provided above upon the attorney's application and a hearing in accordance with rule 34.25, but such reinstatement does not terminate a pending disciplinary proceeding or bar later proceedings against the attorney.

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Rule 34.16 Suspension or disbarment on consent.

34.16(1) An attorney subject to investigation or to a pending proceeding involving allegations of misconduct subject to disciplinary action may acquiesce to suspension or disbarment, but only by ~~delivering to~~filing with the grievance commission an affidavit stating that the attorney consents to suspension of not more than a specific duration or to disbarment and indicating the following:

a. The consent is freely and voluntarily given without any coercion or duress and with full recognition of all implications of the consent.

b. The attorney is aware of a pending investigation or proceeding involving allegations that there exist grounds for discipline, the nature of which will be specifically set forth.

c. The attorney acknowledges the material facts of the alleged misconduct are true.

d. In the event proceedings were instituted upon the matters under investigation, or if existing proceedings were pursued, the attorney could not successfully defend against the proceedings~~allegations~~.

e. The facts admitted in the affidavit would likely result in the suspension or revocation of the attorney's license to practice law.

f. Any matters in mitigation or aggravation of the alleged misconduct.

g. Consent to any alternative or additional sanctions as provided in rule 36.19.

34.16(2) The disciplinary board must file a response to the affidavit, indicating whether the board believes the misconduct admitted in the affidavit would ~~probably-likely~~ result in suspension or revocation of the attorney's license to practice law and citing any legal authorities supporting its conclusion.

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34.16(4) Any order suspending or disbaring an attorney on consent is a matter of public record. If the supreme court enters an order of suspension or disbarment, the affidavit and response will be ~~publicly disclosed~~ made available to the public upon request.

COMMENT: Rule 34.16 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 35.16.

Rule 34.17 Disability suspension.

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34.17(2) Upon the filing of an adjudication or commitment certificate or a like certificate from another jurisdiction, upon a supreme court determination pursuant to a sworn application on behalf of a local bar association, or upon a disciplinary board determination that an attorney is not discharging professional responsibilities due to disability, incapacity, abandonment of practice, or disappearance, the supreme court may enter an order suspending the attorney's license to practice law in this state until further order of the court. Not ~~less-fewer~~ than 20 days prior to the effective date of the suspension, the attorney or the attorney's guardian, and the director of the institution or hospital to which the attorney has been committed, if any, must be notified in writing, directed by restricted certified mail to the attorney's last address as shown in the records accessible to the supreme court, that the attorney has a right to appear before one or more justices of the supreme court at a specified time and place and show cause why such suspension should not take place. Upon a showing of exigent circumstances, emergency, or other compelling cause, the supreme court may reduce or waive the 20-day period and the effective date of action set forth above. Any hearing will be informal and the strict rules of evidence will not apply. The court's decision ~~rendered~~ may simply state the conclusion and decision of the participating justice or justices and may be orally delivered to the attorney at the close of the hearing or sent to the attorney in written form at a later time. A copy of ~~such suspension-the~~ order must be given to the suspended attorney or to the attorney's guardian and to the director of the institution or hospital to which the suspended attorney has been committed, if any, by restricted mail or personal service as the supreme court may direct.

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34.17(4) Any attorney suspended pursuant to rule 34.17 must refrain, during the suspension, from all facets of ordinary law practice including, but not limited to, the examination of abstracts; consummation of real estate transactions; preparation of legal briefs, deeds, buy and sell agreements, contracts, wills, and tax returns; acting as a fiduciary; and when possible, ~~remove all~~ advertising of the attorney's services or holding out to the public that he or she is a licensed

attorney. The suspended attorney may, however, act as a fiduciary for an estate, including a conservatorship or guardianship, of any person related to the suspended attorney within the second degree of affinity or consanguinity.

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34.17(6)

a. Upon being notified of the suspension of an attorney, the chief judge in the judicial district in which the attorney practiced may appoint an attorney or attorneys to serve as trustee to inventory the attorney's files, sequester client funds, and take any other appropriate action to protect the interests of the attorney's clients and other affected persons. In appointing a trustee, the chief judge will give due regard to any designation or standby nomination made under the provisions of rule 39.18. Any trustee appointment is subject to supreme court confirmation. The appointed attorney serves as a special member of the disciplinary board and as a grievance commissioner of the supreme court for the purposes of the appointment.

b. While acting as trustee, the trustee must not serve as an attorney for the clients of the disabled-suspended attorney or other affected persons. The trustee also must not examine any papers or acquire any information concerning real or potential conflicts with the trustee's clients. Should any such information be acquired inadvertently, the trustee must, as to such matters, protect the privacy interests of the disabled-suspended attorney's clients by prompt recusal or refusal of employment.

c. The trustee may seek reasonable fees and reimbursement of costs of the trust from the suspended attorney. If reasonable efforts to collect such fees and costs are unsuccessful, the trustee may submit a claim for payment from the Clients' Security Trust Fund of the Bar of Iowa. The Client Security Commission, in the exercise of its sole discretion, must-will determine the merits of the claim and the amount of any payment from the fund.

d. When the suspended attorney is reinstated to practice law in this state, all pending representation of clients is completed, or the purposes of the trust are accomplished, the trustee may-must apply to the appointing chief judge for an order terminating the trust.

e. Trustee fees and expenses paid by the Client Security Commission must be assessed to the disabled-suspended attorney by the Client Security Commission and are due upon assessment. Trustee fees and expenses assessed under this rule must be paid as a condition of reinstatement and may be collected by the Client Security Commission as part of the annual statement and assessment required by rule 39.8.

34.17(7) Any suspended attorney is entitled to apply for reinstatement to active status once each year or at-upon the expiration of such shorter intervals as the supreme court may provide. The supreme court may reinstate an attorney suspended due to disability upon a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the attorney's disability has been removed and the attorney is fully qualified to resume the practice of law. Upon the attorney's filing of an application for reinstatement, the supreme court may take or direct any action deemed necessary or proper to determine whether the suspended attorney's disability has been removed, including an examination of the attorney by qualified medical experts as the supreme court may designate. In its discretion the supreme court may direct that the attorney pay the expenses of the examination.

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Rule 34.18 Death, suspension, or disbarment of practicing attorney.

34.18(1) Upon a sworn application on behalf of a local bar association, an attorney or entity designated or nominated on a standby basis as described in Iowa Court Rule 39.18, or the disciplinary board showing that a practicing attorney has died or has been suspended or disbarred from the practice of law and that a reasonable necessity exists, the chief judge in the judicial district in which the attorney practiced may appoint an attorney to serve as trustee to inventory the attorney’s files, sequester client funds, and take any other appropriate action to protect the interests of the attorney’s clients and other affected persons. In appointing a trustee, the chief judge will give due regard to any designation or standby nomination made under the provisions of rule 39.18. The appointment is subject to supreme court confirmation. The appointed attorney serves as a special member of the disciplinary board ~~and as a commissioner~~ of the supreme court for the purposes of the appointment.

34.18(2) While acting as trustee, the trustee must not serve as an attorney for the clients of the disabled attorney or other affected persons. The trustee also must not examine any papers or acquire any information concerning real or potential conflicts with the trustee’s clients. If the trustee acquires such information inadvertently, the trustee must, as to such matters, protect the privacy interests of the ~~disabled-suspended~~ attorney’s clients by prompt recusal or refusal of employment.

34.18(3) ~~The~~ trustee who seeks compensation for services rendered ~~may~~must first seek reasonable fees and reimbursement of costs of the trust from the deceased attorney’s estate or the attorney whose license to practice law has been suspended or revoked. If reasonable efforts to collect such fees and costs are unsuccessful, the trustee may submit a claim for payment from the Clients’ Security Trust Fund of the Bar of Iowa. The Client Security Commission, in the exercise of its sole discretion, must determine the merits of the claim and the amount of any payment from the fund.

34.18(4) When all pending representation of clients is completed or the purposes of the trust are accomplished, the trustee ~~may~~must apply to the appointing chief judge for an order terminating the trust.

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Rule 34.21 Suspension of attorney’s license for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. An attorney who defaults on an obligation owed to or collected by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (aid commission) may be subject to suspension of the attorney’s license to practice law in Iowa.

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34.21(3) *Noncompliance certificate withdrawn.* If the aid commission files a withdrawal of certificate of noncompliance, the supreme court will ~~curtail-halt~~ any proceedings pursuant to the certificate of noncompliance or, if necessary, will immediately reinstate the attorney’s license to practice law if the attorney is otherwise eligible under supreme court rules.

COMMENT: Rule 34.21 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 35.21.

Rule 34.22 Suspension of attorney’s license for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected by the ~~Centralized-Central~~ Collection Unit of the Iowa Department of Revenue.

An attorney who defaults on an obligation owed to or collected by the ~~Centralized~~ Central Collection Unit of the Iowa Department of Revenue (CCU) may be subject to suspension of the attorney's license to practice law in Iowa.

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34.22(3) *Noncompliance certificate withdrawn.* If a withdrawal of the certificate of noncompliance is filed, the supreme court will ~~curtail~~ halt any proceedings pursuant to the certificate of noncompliance or, if necessary, will immediately reinstate the attorney's license to practice law if the attorney is otherwise eligible under supreme court rules.

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Rule 34.23 Suspension generally.

34.23(1) In the event the supreme court suspends an attorney's license to practice law, the suspension continues for the minimum time specified in such order and until the supreme court approves the attorney's written application for reinstatement, **if such application is required**. In the order of suspension or by order at any time before reinstatement, the supreme court may require the suspended attorney to meet reasonable conditions for reinstatement including, but not limited to, passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination.

34.23(2) An attorney whose license has been suspended for a period not exceeding 60 days is not required to file an application for reinstatement, and the court will order reinstatement of the attorney's license on the day after the suspension period expires, subject to the following exceptions:

a. The disciplinary board may file and serve within the suspension period an objection to the automatic reinstatement of the attorney. The filing of an objection stays the automatic reinstatement until the supreme court orders otherwise. If the disciplinary board files an objection, the supreme court will set the matter for hearing and the supreme court clerk must enter written notice in conformance with rule 34.25, except that the court may waive the requirement of a 60-day waiting period prior to the hearing date.

b. Automatic reinstatement will not be ordered until all costs assessed under rule 36.24 are paid and the reporting and fee payment requirements of rules 39.14(2), 39.17, and 41.10(2) are completed.

34.23(3) Any attorney suspended must refrain during such suspension from all facets of ordinary law practice including, but not limited to, the examination of abstracts; consummation of real estate transactions; preparation of legal briefs, deeds, buy and sell agreements, contracts, wills, and tax returns; acting as a fiduciary; and when possible, ~~remove all~~ advertising of the attorney's services or holding out to the public that he or she is a licensed attorney. Such suspended attorney may, however, act as a fiduciary for an estate, including a conservatorship or guardianship, of any person related to the suspended attorney within the second degree of affinity or consanguinity.

34.23(4) Nothing in this rule precludes an attorney, law firm, or professional association from employing a suspended attorney to perform ~~only~~ such limited services as laypersons may ethically perform under all of the following conditions:

a. Notice of employment, together with a full job description, must be provided by the employer and employee-suspended attorney to the disciplinary board before employment commences.

b. The employer and employee-suspended attorney must verify and submit informational reports quarterly to the disciplinary board certifying that no aspect of the employee's-suspended attorney's work has involved the unauthorized practice of law.

c. A suspended attorney must not have direct or personal association with any client and must not disburse or otherwise handle funds or property of a client.

COMMENT: Rule 34.23 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 35.13. Rule 34.23(2) is amended from former rule 35.13(2) to make clear that satisfaction of reinstatement requirements with the Commission on Continuing Legal Education and the Client Security Commission is a condition precedent to automatic reinstatement, as it is for reinstatement upon application. The rule also is amended to require curtailment of advertising, to the extent possible, during the period of suspension.

Rule 34.24 Notification of clients and counsel.

34.24(1) In every case in which a respondentan attorney is ordered to be disbarred or suspended, the respondent-attorney must do all of the following:

a. Within 15 days notify in writing the respondent's-attorney's clients in all pending matters of the need to seek legal advice elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency in seeking the substitution of another attorney.

b. Within 15 days deliver to all clients represented in pending matters any papers or other property to which they are entitled or notify them and any co-counsel of a suitable time and place for obtaining the papers and other property, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining the papers or other property.

c. Within 30 days refund any part of any fees paid in advance that have not been earned.

d. Within 15 days notify opposing counsel in pending litigation or, in the absence of such counsel, the adverse parties of the respondent's-attorney's disbarment or suspension and consequent disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of such discipline or transfer to disability inactive status.

e. Within 15 days file with the court, agency, or tribunal before which the litigation is pending a copy of the notice to opposing counsel or adverse parties.

f. Keep and maintain records of the steps taken to accomplish the foregoing.

g. Within 30 days file with the disciplinary board copies of ~~the notices~~each notice sent pursuant to the requirements of this rule and proof of complete performance of the requirements. This is a condition for ~~application for readmission~~reinstatement to practice.

34.24(2) The times set forth in rules 34.24(1)(c) and 34.24(1)(g) are reduced to 15 days for respondents who are exempted from filing an application for reinstatement under rule 34.23.

COMMENT: Rule 34.24 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 35.23.

REINSTATEMENT

Rule 34.25 Procedure on application for reinstatement. Any person whose certificate to practice law in this state has been suspended may apply for reinstatement subject to the following rules:

34.25(1) Application.

a. A proceeding for reinstatement to the practice of law in Iowa must be commenced by written application to the supreme court filed with the supreme court clerk not more than 60 days prior to expiration of the suspension period.

b. The application must state the date of the applicant's original admission, the date and duration of suspension, and that the applicant has complied in all respects with any orders or judgments of the supreme court relating to the suspension.

c. The application must be verified by the oath of the applicant as to the truth of the statements made in the application.

d. The applicant must also submit to the supreme court satisfactory proof that the applicant, at the time of the application, is of good moral character and in all respects worthy of the right to practice law. The application must be accompanied by the recommendation of at least three reputable attorneys currently practicing law in the judicial district in which the applicant then lives and has lived at least one year prior to filing the application. If the applicant does not reside in the district in which the applicant lived at the time of the suspension, the applicant must also file a recommendation from three ~~reputable~~ attorneys in good standing and currently practicing law in the district where the applicant resided at the time of suspension. The required recommendations may not be from judges or magistrates.

e. The applicant must also submit satisfactory proof that the applicant, at the time of the application, has filed all reports, paid all fees, and completed all continuing legal education requirements of chapters 39, 41, and 42 of the Iowa Court Rules.

f. The applicant must submit satisfactory proof that the ~~Client~~ Clients' Security Trust Fund of the Bar of Iowa is repaid in full for all client security conduct or that the Client Security Commission has approved a repayment plan.

34.25(2) Procedure. Upon filing of the application and recommendations with the supreme court clerk, the clerk must give written notice containing the date of the suspension, the date of filing the application, and the date of the hearing set by the supreme court, which will be at least 60 days after the filing of such application for reinstatement, to the following ~~persons listed below~~:

- a. The attorney general.
- b. The county attorney where the applicant resides.
- c. The county attorney where the applicant resided at the time of suspension.
- d. The chair of the Iowa Board of Law Examiners.
- e. The assistant director for attorney discipline of the office of professional regulation.
- f. Each judge of the district in which the applicant resided at the time of suspension. The president of a local bar association where the applicant resides.
- g. The president of a local bar association where the applicant resides.
- h. The president of a local bar association where the applicant resided when the certificate was suspended.
- i. The president of The Iowa State Bar Association.

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34.25(6) Decision. The supreme court will ~~render~~ issue its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing. The supreme court may require the applicant to meet reasonable conditions for reinstatement including, but not limited to, passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination.

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34.25(10) Iowa Board of Law Examiners' report. After the application for reinstatement is filed with the supreme court clerk, the ~~disciplinary board~~ Iowa Board of Law Examiners will file a report and recommendation with the supreme court regarding the applicant's character and fitness.

34.25(11) Supreme court actions on application. Upon review of the application for reinstatement from a revoked attorney, the supreme court may summarily deny the application, request further information, or set a hearing date and direct the supreme court clerk to give the notice provided under rule 34.25(12). The court may appoint a special master or a hearing panel to conduct the hearing. The hearing date must in no case be ~~less~~ fewer than 60 days after the filing of the application for reinstatement. Any order denying reinstatement may state whether the attorney is allowed to file a future application and, if so, the minimum amount of time before the application may be filed.

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34.25(16) Decision.

a. The supreme court's decision will be determined by majority vote of those justices participating in the proceeding. Any special master or hearing panel appointed to conduct a hearing must file a report containing findings of fact with the supreme court clerk within 30 days after the hearing. The court's review of the record made before the special master or hearing panel will be de novo. An attorney's readmission to practice in another jurisdiction following revocation in Iowa is not binding on the decision of the supreme court on any application for reinstatement to practice in Iowa. The decision rests in the sole discretion of the supreme court.

b. The supreme court in its discretion may place conditions on reinstatement, including, but not limited to, passing the Iowa ~~Bar Examination~~ bar examination. If the supreme court does not require the applicant to pass the bar examination, it will impose a requirement that the applicant must report up to 100 hours of continuing legal education. If the applicant refuses or fails to perform any of the conditions, the court may enter an order summarily denying the application or revoking the attorney's license, if admitted, without further hearing. The applicant must post a scaled score of at least 80 on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) as a condition of reinstatement. The MPRE score ~~may~~ must be from a test taken no longer than three years prior to the date of filing of the application for reinstatement. An applicant may take the MPRE after the court's reinstatement decision, but the attorney will not be reinstated until the required score is filed.

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34.25(19) Denial of reinstatement for default on student loan obligation. An attorney who defaults on an obligation owed to or collected by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (aid commission) may be denied reinstatement of the attorney's license to practice law in Iowa.

a. Procedure. The ~~College Student Aid Commission~~aid commission may file with the supreme court clerk any certificate of noncompliance that involves an attorney. Rule 34.21(1) governs the procedure, including notice to the attorney, except that the notice must refer to a refusal to reinstate an attorney's license to practice law instead of a suspension of the attorney's license.

b. District court hearing. Upon receipt of an attorney's application for hearing, the district court clerk must schedule a hearing to be held within 30 days of the date of filing of the application. Rule 34.21(2) governs all matters pertaining to the hearing.

c. Noncompliance certificate withdrawn. If a withdrawal of certificate of noncompliance is filed, the supreme court will ~~enjoin~~halt any proceedings pursuant to the certificate of noncompliance or, if necessary, will immediately reinstate the attorney's license to practice law if the attorney is otherwise eligible for reinstatement.

34.25(20) *Denial of reinstatement for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected by the* ~~Centralized-Central~~Collection Unit of the Iowa Department of Revenue. An attorney who defaults on an obligation owed to or collected by the ~~Centralized-Central~~Collection Unit of the Iowa Department of Revenue (CCU) may be denied reinstatement of the attorney's license to practice law in Iowa.

a. Procedure. The CCU may file with the supreme court clerk any certificate of noncompliance that involves an attorney. Rule 34.22(1) governs the procedure, including notice to the attorney, except that the notice must refer to a refusal to reinstate an attorney's license to practice law instead of a suspension of the attorney's license.

b. District court hearing. Upon receipt of an attorney's application for hearing, the district court clerk must schedule a hearing to be held within 30 days of the date of filing of the application. Rule 34.22(2) governs all matters pertaining to the hearing.

c. Noncompliance certificate withdrawn. If a withdrawal of a certificate of noncompliance is filed, the supreme court will ~~enjoin~~halt any proceedings pursuant to the certificate of noncompliance or, if necessary, will immediately reinstate the attorney's license to practice law if the attorney is otherwise eligible for reinstatement.

COMMENT: Rule 34.25 formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 35.14.