

## CHAPTER 39 CLIENT SECURITY COMMISSION

1		
2		
3	Rule 39.1	Client Security Commission
4	Rule 39.2	Principal executive officer
5	Rule 39.3	Clients' <del>security trust fund</del> <u>Security Trust Fund</u> of the <del>bar</del> <u>Bar</u> of Iowa
6	Rule 39.4	Audit—; banking—; budget
7	Rule 39.5	Annual disciplinary fee
8	Rule 39.6	Fund assessments
9	Rule 39.7	Exemption <del>and</del> ; retirement
10	Rule 39.8	Enforcement
11	Rule 39.9	Claims
12	Rule 39.10	Investigations <del>and</del> ; audits
13	Rule 39.11	Annual questionnaire
14	Rule 39.12	Investigations; audits <del>and</del> ; annual questionnaire—; enforcement
15	Rule 39.13	Attorneys acting as fiduciaries
16	Rule 39.14	Reinstatement from exemption or suspension
17	Rule 39.15	Denial of reinstatement for failure to comply with certain obligations
18	Rule 39.16	Attorneys <del>Practicing</del> <u>practicing</u> in Iowa <del>Under</del> <u>under</u> the <del>Multijurisdictional</del>
19		<del>Practice Rule</del> <u>multijurisdictional practice rule</u>
20	Rule 39.17	Collection of court costs and other fees
21	Rule 39.18	Requirement for death or disability designation and authorization

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41

## CHAPTER 39 CLIENT SECURITY COMMISSION

### **Rule 39.1 Client Security Commission.**

**39.1(1) Commission.** There is hereby created a Client Security Commission\_ ~~hereinafter referred to as “commission,”~~ (commission), which ~~shall have~~ has the duties and powers provided in this chapter.

**39.1(2) Duties of commission.** The commission ~~shall have~~ has the following duties and powers as limited and defined in this chapter:

*a.* To examine lawyer defalcations and breaches of Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, the rules relating to the discipline of members of the Iowa bar, and to make recommendations to the supreme court concerning rule changes deemed necessary or desirable in this area.

*b.* To assist the court in administering both preventive and remedial attorney disciplinary procedures contained in these rules or other court rules.

*c.* To administer and operate the Clients’ Security Trust Fund of the Bar of Iowa, as hereinafter created, designated as the “fund.”

**39.1(3) Appointment of commissioners.** The supreme court ~~shall~~ will appoint five members of the Iowa bar and two laypersons who are residents of this state to the commission. ~~The original appointment shall be two commissioners for a one year term, two for a two year term, one for a three year term, one for a four year term and one for a five year term. At the expiration of such terms, all~~ All subsequent appointments ~~shall~~ will be for a term of four years, and any commissioner who has served two full terms ~~shall not be~~ is not eligible for reappointment. A vacancy occurring during a term ~~shall~~ will be filled by the supreme court for the unexpired portion thereof.

**39.1(4) Organization and meetings.** The commissioners ~~shall~~ must organize annually and ~~shall then~~ shall elect from among their number a chair and a treasurer to serve for a one-year term and such other officers for such terms as they deem necessary or appropriate. Meetings thereafter ~~shall~~ will be held at the call of the chair or of the majority of the commissioners. Five commissioners ~~shall~~ will constitute a quorum and may transact all business except as may be otherwise provided by this chapter and chapter 40 of the Iowa Court Rules.

**39.1(5) Regulations.** The commission ~~shall~~ may adopt regulations, consistent with this chapter and subject to the approval of the supreme court, concerning all of the powers and duties granted to and imposed upon the commission by this chapter.

**39.1(6) Reimbursement.** The commissioners ~~shall~~ must serve without compensation but ~~shall be~~ are entitled to reimbursement from the fund for their expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties.

[Court Order December 5, 1973; December 15, 1994, effective January 3, 1995; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; May 25, 2004; April 20, 2005, and July 1, 2005, effective July 1, 2005]

### **Rule 39.2 Principal executive officer.**

1       **39.2(1) Appointment.** The director of the office of professional regulation serves as the  
2 | principal executive officer of the ~~client security~~ commission. Wherever in this chapter a  
3 reference to the “director” appears, it refers to the director of the office of professional  
4 regulation. The director may designate an assistant director for boards and commissions to assist  
5 with the duties described in this chapter.

6       **39.2(2) Duties of director.** Subject to the supervision of the supreme court and the  
7 | commission, the director ~~shall~~must do the following:

8       a. Collect attorney fees and assessments for the fund and report to the commission the names  
9 and addresses of all attorneys who fail to pay the fee and assessment.

10       b. Serve as executive secretary to the commission and assist in the operation and  
11 administration of the fund.

12       c. Conduct investigations and audits of attorneys’ accounts and office procedures to determine  
13 compliance with this chapter, Iowa Rule of Professional Conduct 32:1.15, and chapter 45 of the  
14 Iowa Court Rules and report violations to the commission.

15 |       d. Maintain an office in such place as the supreme court ~~shall~~may designate, act as a liaison  
16 between the court, the commission, and other commissions, committees, boards, and personnel  
17 serving a function in the disciplinary system, and maintain for the court records of disciplinary  
18 | proceedings and such other information and data as the court ~~shall require~~requires.

19       e. Upon request of the commission, institute disciplinary proceedings before the grievance  
20 | commission pursuant to chapter ~~35-36~~ of the Iowa Court Rules.

21       f. Perform such other functions and duties as may be directed by the supreme court.

22 [Court Order December 5, 1973; December 15, 1994, effective January 3, 1995; November 9,  
23 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 20, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; December 5, 2007;  
24 November 20, 2015, effective January 1, 2016]

25  
26 | **Rule 39.3 Clients’ ~~security trust fund~~ Security Trust Fund of the bar Bar of Iowa.**

27       **39.3(1) Creation, operation and purpose.** A trust fund, to be known as the “Clients’ Security  
28 Trust Fund of the Bar of Iowa” (~~hereinafter, the “fund”~~)(fund) is hereby authorized and created.

29       **39.3(2) Administration.** The fund ~~shall~~will be operated and administered by the commission  
30 in accordance with this chapter.

31 |       **39.3(3) Purpose.** The purpose of the fund ~~shall be~~is to prevent defalcations by members of the  
32 Iowa bar, and insofar as practicable, to provide for the indemnification by the profession for  
33 losses caused to the public by the dishonest conduct of members of the bar of this state, and to  
34 provide funding for the administration of the lawyer disciplinary system and other programs  
35 | ~~which~~that impact the disciplinary system including, but not limited to, the Iowa Lawyer’s  
36 Assistance Program.

37       **39.3(4) Powers and duties of commission relating to the fund.** The commission, in addition to  
38 | the powers granted elsewhere in this chapter, ~~shall have~~also has the following powers and duties:

39       a. To receive, hold, manage, and distribute, pursuant to the direction of the supreme court and  
40 this chapter, the moneys raised hereunder, and any other amounts that may be received by the  
41 fund through voluntary contributions or otherwise.

42       b. To adopt, subject to the approval of the supreme court, regulations for the administration of  
43 the fund and the procedures for presentation, consideration, recognition, rejection and payment

1 | of claims, and for conducting business. A copy of such regulations ~~shall~~must be filed with the  
2 | clerk of the supreme court.

3 | c. To enforce claims for restitution; arising by subrogation or assignment or otherwise.

4 | d. To invest the fund, or any portion thereof, in those investments and in the percentages  
5 | authorized by Iowa Code section 97B.7, (investments for ~~the Iowa public employees' retirement~~  
6 | ~~system~~Public Employees' Retirement System); provided, however, the commission ~~shall not be~~is  
7 | not required to invest such portions of the fund as it may deem necessary to be currently available  
8 | for payment of claims and other expenses required by this chapter. All interest or other income  
9 | received in the operation of the fund ~~shall~~will become a part of the fund.

10 | e. To employ and compensate consultants, agents, legal counsel, and employees.

11 | f. To delegate the power to perform routine acts ~~which that~~ may be necessary or desirable for  
12 | the operation of the fund, including the power to authorize disbursements for routine operating  
13 | expenses of the fund, and all necessary expenses of the assistant administrator and staff in the  
14 | performance of their duties; ~~but authorization~~Authorization for payment of claims, however,  
15 | ~~shall may~~ be made only by the commission under the provisions of this chapter.

16 | g. To sue in the name of the commission without joining any or all individual commissioners.

17 | h. To purchase complementary fidelity coverage for the fund in such amount and with such  
18 | limitations or deductible limits as in its discretion it determines proper.

19 | i. To pay reasonable and necessary attorney fees incurred by the commissioners ~~of the~~  
20 | ~~supreme court in implementing chapter 35 of the Iowa Court Rules in~~ connection with  
21 | disciplinary proceedings based on attorney defalcations or which are initiated pursuant to rule  
22 | 39.2(3)(e).

23 | j. To fund programs ~~which that~~ the commission believes will assist in preventing defalcations  
24 | by attorneys. The annual allocation for any such program ~~shall not must not~~ exceed two and one-  
25 | half percent of the fund value as of the beginning of the fiscal year in which the funding is to  
26 | occur. No such funding may be provided unless there is at least twice the minimum balance  
27 | required by rule 39.6(3) in the fund at the beginning of the fiscal year in which the funding is to  
28 | occur.

29 | **39.3(5) Applications to the supreme court.** The commission may apply to the supreme court  
30 | for interpretations of this chapter and of the extent of the commission's powers thereunder and  
31 | for advice regarding the proper administration of the fund. Interpretations of the supreme court  
32 | ~~shall be~~are obligatory when rendered.

33 | [Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; November 26, 2013, effective  
34 | December 1, 2013]

35 |  
36 | **Rule 39.4 Audit—; banking—; budget.**

37 | **39.4(1) Audit and report.** On March 1 of each year, and at such additional times as the  
38 | supreme court may order, the commission ~~shall~~must file with the supreme court a written report  
39 | reviewing in detail the administration of the fund during the preceding calendar year together  
40 | with an audit of the fund certified by a certified public accountant licensed to practice in Iowa.

41 | **39.4(2) Banking and disbursements.** The director of the office of professional regulation must  
42 | maintain the assets of the fund in a separate account and may disburse moneys from the fund only at  
43 | the direction of the supreme court or upon the action of the commission pursuant to this chapter. A

1 separate bookkeeping account designated as the disciplinary fund account must be maintained  
2 within the fund for moneys derived from the annual disciplinary fee set out in rule 39.5. Fees,  
3 penalties, or investment income derived from the investment of the income from annual disciplinary  
4 fees and penalties must be placed in the disciplinary fund account.

5 **39.4(3) Budget.** At least 60 days prior to the commencement of each fiscal year or on a date  
6 otherwise specified by the supreme court, the director of the office of professional regulation  
7 must submit to the supreme court its budget of operations of such year, which may be amended  
8 thereafter as necessity dictates.

9 [Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; December 5, 2007; November 20,  
10 2015, effective January 1, 2016]

11  
12 **Rule 39.5 Annual disciplinary fee.** As a condition to continuing membership in the bar of the  
13 supreme court, including the right to practice law before Iowa courts, every bar member, unless  
14 exempt or retired, ~~shall~~ must pay to the commission through the office of professional regulation an  
15 annual fee as determined by the supreme court to finance the disciplinary system. The annual fee  
16 ~~shall be~~ is due on or before March 10 of each year, for that calendar year. A calendar year is defined  
17 as the period of time from January 1 through December 31. A member of the bar of the supreme  
18 court who certifies in writing to the commission that the member is a justice, judge, associate judge,  
19 or full-time magistrate of any court, spends full time in the military service of the United States  
20 following admission to the Iowa bar, is admitted on examination to the bar of Iowa during the current  
21 calendar year, or is issued a certificate of exemption or a certificate of retirement pursuant to the  
22 provisions of rule 39.7 ~~shall be~~ is exempt from payment of this fee.

23 [Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; December 5, 2007; December 2,  
24 2011; April 25, 2014; August 19, 2016, effective September 1, 2016]

## 25 26 **Rule 39.6 Fund assessments.**

27 **39.6(1) Assessments.** As a condition to continuing membership in the bar of Iowa, including the  
28 right to practice law before Iowa courts, every bar member, unless exempt or retired under the  
29 provisions of rule 39.6(6) or rule 39.7, ~~shall~~ must pay to the commission through the office of  
30 professional regulation the assessment specified in rule 39.6(2), 39.6(3), or 39.6(4), or as provided by  
31 court order. The assessment ~~shall be~~ is to be paid annually and deposited in the fund created pursuant to  
32 the provisions of rule 39.3. Assessments ~~shall be~~ are due on or before March 10 of each year, for that  
33 calendar year. A calendar year is defined as the period of time from January 1 through December 31.

### 34 **39.6(2) Initial and regular assessment schedule.**

35 For the calendar year of the member's admission on examination to the bar of Iowa, and for  
36 the calendar year thereafter..... None.

37 For the calendar year of the member's admission on motion to the bar of Iowa, a payment  
38 toward the \$200 initial assessment in the amount of.....\$50.

39 For the years after those described above, until an initial total of \$200 in assessment has been  
40 paid, a payment of .....\$50 annually.

41 For the years after an initial total of \$200 in assessments has been paid, unless a special  
42 assessment is payable under rule 39.6(4), a regular annual assessment of..... \$50 annually.

43 [Court Order June 13, 1979; November 13, 1984; November 15, 1985; November 11, 1986;

November 19, 1987; October 20, 1988; November 16, 1989; December 15, 1994, effective January 3, 1995; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; December 5, 2007; November 26, 2013, effective December 26, 2013]

**39.6(3) Certificate of sufficiency.** The commission ~~shall~~must determine the net value of the cash and securities in the fund as of December 1 of each year. The commission ~~shall~~must file with the supreme court prior to December 31 of each year a certificate regarding sufficiency of the fund. Whenever the value of such assets ~~shall equal~~equals less than \$900,000, after deducting all claims and requests for reimbursement against the fund, not disposed of at the date of valuation, and all expenses properly chargeable against the fund, a special assessment as set forth in rule 39.6(4) ~~shall will~~ be payable for the next calendar year after the date of the certificate of sufficiency. This special assessment ~~shall will~~ be paid in lieu of the regular assessment set in rule 39.6(2), by each member of the bar who has already paid the \$200 initial assessment.

**Comment:** The November 26, 2013, amendment to new rule 39.6(3), raising the threshold used to calculate the sufficiency of the fund, is effective for the sufficiency calculation to be performed beginning December 1, 2013.

**39.6(4) Special assessment.** For any calendar year in which a special assessment is payable in lieu of the regular assessment set in rule 39.6(2), the special assessment is established as follows:

*a. Lawyers in full-time private practice.* Members of the bar of Iowa in full-time private practice ~~shall must~~ pay to the commission a special assessment of \$140.

*b. Lawyers in part-time private practice.* Members of the bar of Iowa who derive net income of less than \$10,000 from the practice of law in Iowa during the preceding calendar year ~~shall must~~ pay to the commission a special assessment of \$70. Net income from the practice of law ~~shall be~~ for the purposes of this rule is that amount shown on the federal income tax return of such members for the appropriate year as “profit or loss from a business or profession.” The commission may require members so electing to submit to the commission a copy of their federal income tax return for the appropriate year to substantiate the amount due hereunder.

*c. Judges, government attorneys, corporate counsel.* Any member of the bar of Iowa who certifies in writing to the commission that the member is a justice, judge, associate judge, or full-time magistrate of any court, or one who performs legal services only for a governmental unit, or one who performs legal services only for a particular person, firm, or corporation (other than a professional legal corporation or a law firm) and stands in the legal capacity with such person, firm, or corporation as an employee, ~~shall must~~ pay to the commission a special assessment of \$70. However, a retired judge or justice recalled for temporary service ~~shall is~~ not ~~be~~ required to pay an assessment or surrender their certificate of exemption.

**39.6(5) Multijurisdictional practitioners.** Lawyers practicing in Iowa under the provisions of rule of professional conduct 32:5.5(d)(2) and rule 39.16 ~~shall must~~ pay the same initial, regular, and special assessments as members of the bar of Iowa in private practice.

**39.6(6) Members in full-time military service.** Any member of the bar of Iowa who certifies in writing that the member is serving full-time in the military service of the United States ~~shall be~~ is exempt from any assessment under this rule.

[Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; December 5, 2007; November 26, 2013, effective December 26, 2013; April 25, 2014; August 19, 2016, effective September 1, 2016]

1 **Rule 39.7 Exemption and retirement.**

2 **39.7(1) Certificate of exemption.** A member of the bar of the supreme court who is not engaged  
3 in the practice of law in the ~~state~~ State of Iowa may be granted a certificate of exemption by the  
4 commission, and thereafter no fee or assessment except for an annual exemption fee of \$50 and  
5 late filing penalties ~~shall~~ will be required from such member unless the member thereafter engages  
6 in the practice of law in the ~~state~~ State of Iowa, in which case the certificate of exemption  
7 ~~shall~~ must without further order of court stand revoked, and the member ~~shall~~ must file at once the  
8 statement required by rule 39.8(1); and the questionnaire required by rule 39.11 and pay the fee  
9 and assessment due under rules 39.5 and 39.6. A member of the bar requesting a certificate of  
10 exemption ~~shall~~ must file with the director such part of the rule 39.11 questionnaire as the director  
11 may deem necessary to determine the member's status. Applications for a certificate of exemption  
12 must be submitted concurrently under rules 41.7, 42.6, and rule 39.7(1).

13 **39.7(2) Certificate of retirement.** A member of the bar of the supreme court who is fully  
14 retired from the practice of law in the ~~state~~ State of Iowa and does not intend ever again to  
15 practice law in Iowa may be granted a certificate of retirement. Thereafter, no fee, assessment,  
16 annual statement, or questionnaire is required from such member. A member granted a certificate  
17 of retirement is not entitled to practice law in the state of Iowa and may not apply for  
18 reinstatement, but the member may be certified as an emeritus attorney under rule 31.19. A  
19 member granted a certificate of retirement who desires to again practice law other than as an  
20 emeritus attorney must seek admission under the provisions of chapter 31 of the Iowa Court  
21 Rules. A member of the bar requesting a certificate of retirement ~~shall~~ must file with the director  
22 such part of the rule 39.11 questionnaire as the director may deem necessary to determine the  
23 member's status. Applications for a certificate of retirement must be submitted concurrently  
24 under rule 41.13 and rule 39.7(2).

25 **39.7(3) Practice of law.** The practice of law as that term is employed in this chapter includes  
26 the following: examination of abstracts; consummation of real estate transactions; preparation of  
27 legal briefs, deeds, buy and sell agreements, contracts, wills, and tax returns; ~~as well as~~ the  
28 representation of others in any Iowa courts; the right to represent others in any Iowa courts; ~~or~~  
29 ~~to regularly prepare~~ preparing legal instruments; ~~secure~~ securing legal rights, ~~advise~~ advising  
30 others as to their legal rights or the effect of contemplated actions upon their legal rights, or ~~to~~  
31 ~~hold~~ holding oneself out to so do; ~~or to be one who instructs~~ instructing others in legal rights; ~~or~~  
32 ~~and to be a judge or one who rules upon the legal rights of others unless neither state nor federal~~  
33 law requires the person so judging or ruling to hold a license to practice law.

34 **39.7(4) Transition provisions.**

35 a. The provisions of rule 39.7(1) regarding an annual \$50 fee for exempt practitioners and  
36 concurrent application for exempt status and of rule 39.7(2) regarding a separate fully retired  
37 status are effective January 1, 2018.

38 b. On or before December 31, 2017, attorneys in active status may apply for and be granted  
39 exempt status without payment of an annual fee, or emeritus status under rule 31.19.

40 c. On or after January 1, 2018, attorneys in active status may apply for and be granted  
41 exempt status with payment of an annual fee, emeritus status under rule 31.19, or retired status  
42 under rule 39.7(2).

d. Attorneys who are in exempt status as of December 31, 2017, will be accorded legacy status. Attorneys in legacy status will have no fee payment or reporting responsibilities. For a period of five years commencing January 1, 2018, and ending December 31, 2022, attorneys in legacy status may apply for conversion to exempt status, emeritus status under rule 31.19, retired status under rule 39.7(2), or reinstatement to active status under rule 39.14(3). On or after January 1, 2023, attorneys in legacy status are not entitled to apply for conversion to exempt status or apply for reinstatement to active status under rule 39.14(3), but they may apply for emeritus status under rule 31.19 or retired status under rule 39.7(2).  
[Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; December 5, 2007; August 19, 2016, effective September 1, 2016, rules 39.7(1) and 39.7(2), effective January 1, 2018]

### **Rule 39.8 Enforcement.**

**39.8(1)** To facilitate the collection of the annual fees and assessments provided for in rules 39.5, 39.6, 39.7(1), and 39.17, all members of the Iowa bar required to pay the fees and assessments ~~shall~~must, on or before March 10 of each year, file a statement, on a form prescribed by the director, setting forth their date of admission to practice before the supreme court, their current residence and office addresses, and such other information as the director may from time to time direct. In addition to such statement, every bar member ~~shall~~must file a supplemental statement of any change in the information previously submitted within 30 days of such change. All persons admitted to practice before the supreme court ~~shall~~must file the statement required by this rule at the time of admission but no annual fees or assessments ~~shall be~~ are payable until the time above provided. All attorneys failing to file the required statement by March 10 of each year ~~shall~~must, in addition to the annual fees and assessments provided for above, pay a penalty as set forth in the following schedule if the statement is filed after March 10. The penalty fees collected ~~shall~~will be used to pay the costs of administering the fund, or for such other purposes within the office of professional regulation as the supreme court may direct.

#### Penalty Schedule

<del>If Filed</del> <u>filed</u> :	Penalty:
After March 10 but before April 12	\$100
After April 11 but before May 12	\$150
After May 11 <u>but before June 12</u>	\$200
After June 11	\$250

**39.8(2)** Attorneys who fail to timely pay the fees and assessments required under rules 39.5, 39.6, 39.7(1), and 39.17, or fail to file the statement or supplement thereto provided in rule 39.8(1), may have their right to practice law suspended by the supreme court, provided that at least 15 days prior to such suspension, a notice of delinquency has been served upon them in the manner provided for the service of original notices in Iowa ~~R. Civ. P.~~ Rule of Civil Procedure 1.305, or has been forwarded to them by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to them at their last-known address. Such attorneys must be given the opportunity during said 15 days to file in duplicate in the office of professional regulation an affidavit disclosing facts demonstrating the noncompliance was not willful and tendering such documents and sums and penalties which, if accepted, would cure the delinquency, or to file in duplicate in the office of the clerk of the supreme court a request for hearing to show cause why their license



1 to practice law should not be suspended. A hearing must be granted if requested. If, after hearing,  
2 or failure to cure the delinquency by satisfactory affidavit and compliance, an attorney is  
3 suspended, the attorney must be notified thereof by either of the two methods ~~above~~-provided  
4 above for notice of delinquency.

5 **39.8(3)** Any attorney suspended pursuant to this chapter ~~shall~~must do all of the following:

6 a. Within 15 days in the absence of co-counsel, notify clients in all pending matters to seek  
7 legal advice elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency in seeking the substitution of another  
8 ~~lawyer~~attorney.

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

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

14 d. Within 15 days, notify opposing counsel in pending litigation or, in the absence of such  
15 counsel, the adverse parties, of the suspension and consequent disqualification to act as a lawyer  
16 after the effective date of such discipline.

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

19 f. Keep and maintain records of the steps taken to accomplish the ~~foregoing~~requirements of  
20 this rule.

21 g. Within 30 days, file ~~proof~~ with the supreme court and with the Iowa Supreme Court  
22 Attorney Disciplinary Board proof of complete performance of the foregoing, ~~and this shall~~  
23 ~~be~~which is a condition for application for readmission to practice.

24 **39.8(4)** Any attorney suspended pursuant to this chapter ~~shall~~must refrain, during such  
25 suspension, from all facets of the ordinary law practice including, but not limited to, the  
26 examination of abstracts; consummation of real estate transactions; preparation of legal briefs,  
27 deeds, buy and sell agreements, contracts, wills, and tax returns; and acting as a fiduciary. Such  
28 suspended attorney may, however, act as a fiduciary for the estate, ~~including~~ a conservatorship,  
29 or guardianship, of any person related to the suspended attorney within the second degree of  
30 affinity or consanguinity.

31 **39.8(5)** Attorneys who have been suspended pursuant to this chapter or who currently hold a  
32 certificate of exemption or retirement and who practice law or who hold themselves out as being  
33 authorized to practice law in this state are engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and may  
34 also be held in contempt of the court or may be subject to disciplinary action as provided by  
35 chapter 35 of the Iowa Court Rules.

36 [Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 20, 2005, effective July 1,  
37 2005; December 5, 2007; April 25, 2008; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; January 19, 2010;  
38 April 25, 2014; November 20, 2015, effective January 1, 2016; August 19, 2016, effective  
39 September 1, 2016]

40  
41 **Rule 39.8(6) Copy of application for reinstatement.** An attorney who has been summarily  
42 suspended under this rule must file an application with the clerk of the supreme court for  
43 reinstatement, and a copy of said application must be forwarded to the director of the office of

1 professional regulation and to the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board at least ten  
2 days prior to any action upon the application.

3 [Regulation Order October 28, 1976; Court Order December 15, 1994, effective January 3, 1995;  
4 November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 20, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; December  
5 5, 2007]

6 Comment: Rule 39.8(6) formerly appeared as Iowa Court Rule 40.7.

## 8 **Rule 39.9 Claims.**

9 **39.9(1)** The commission ~~shall~~will consider for payment all claims resulting from the dishonest  
10 conduct of a member of the bar of this state acting either as an attorney or fiduciary, provided  
11 that all of the following are established:

12 a. ~~Said~~The conduct was engaged in while the attorney was a practicing member of the bar of  
13 this state, and the claim arises out of the practice of law in this state. The commission ~~shall~~must  
14 not consider any claim resulting from conduct engaged in after an attorney's license to practice  
15 in Iowa has been revoked. For purposes of this rule, a practicing member of the bar of this state  
16 is:

17 (1) A member of the bar of Iowa whose license is active and in good standing at the time of  
18 the dishonest conduct giving rise to the claim, ~~or~~.

19 (2) A member of the bar of Iowa whose license has been suspended and whom the client  
20 reasonably believes to be licensed, active, and in good standing at the time of the dishonest  
21 conduct giving rise to the claim. If the attorney has been suspended more than six months prior to  
22 the time of the dishonest conduct giving rise to the claim, it ~~shall be~~will be presumed that the  
23 client was unreasonable in believing that the attorney was licensed, active, and in good standing at  
24 the time of the dishonest conduct.

25 (3) An attorney who establishes an office or other systematic and continuous presence in  
26 Iowa for the practice of law under the provisions of rule of professional conduct 32:5.5(d)(2) and  
27 pays the annual fee and assessment due under rules 39.5 and 39.6.

28 b. Such defalcation or dishonest conduct occurred after January 1, 1974.

29 c. The claim is made within one year after the client's discovery of the loss; provided,  
30 however, such time limitation in unusual circumstances may be extended by the commission in  
31 its discretion for good cause shown.

32 d. The claim is made directly by or on behalf of the injured client or the client's personal  
33 representative or, if a corporation, by or on behalf of itself or its successors in interest.

34 e. The commission is satisfied that there is no other source or collateral source for the  
35 reimbursement of the loss.

36 f. ~~Claims shall not be paid which~~The claim did not arise out of an employer-employee  
37 relationship as distinguished from a lawyer-client relationship or a fiduciary relationship.

38 **39.9(2)** The commission is invested with the power, which it ~~shall~~will exercise in its sole  
39 discretion, to determine whether a claim merits reimbursement from the fund, and if so, the  
40 amount of such reimbursement, the time, place, and manner of its payment, the conditions upon  
41 which payment ~~shall~~will be made, and the order in which payment ~~shall~~will be made. The  
42 commission's powers in this respect may be exercised only by the affirmative vote of at least

four commissioners. In making such determinations, the commission ~~shall~~may consider among other appropriate factors, the following:

*a.* The amounts available and likely to become available to the fund for the payment of claims and the size and number of claims which are likely to be presented.

*b.* The total amount of reimbursable losses in previous years for which total reimbursement has not been made, if any, and the total assets of the fund.

*c.* The amount of the claimant's loss as compared to the amount of losses sustained by other eligible claimants.

*d.* The degree of hardship suffered by the claimant as a result of the loss.

*e.* The degree of negligence, if any, of the claimant which may have contributed to the loss.

*f.* The total amount of losses caused by defalcations of any one attorney or associated group of attorneys.

**39.9(3)** ~~By regulation approved by the supreme court, The the commission shall~~must, ~~by regulation approved by the supreme court, fix the maximum amount which that any one claimant may recover from the fund and the aggregate maximum amount which that may be recovered because of the dishonest conduct of any one attorney.~~

**39.9(4)** No claimant or any other person or organization ~~shall have~~has any right in the fund as third-party beneficiary or otherwise. Reimbursement by claim on the fund ~~shall be~~is a matter of grace and not of right.

**39.9(5)** The commission may require as a condition to payment that the claimant execute an assignment of claimant's right against the defaulting lawyer.

**39.9(6)** No claimant need be represented by counsel before the commission. No attorney representing a claimant ~~shall will~~will receive a fee for services from the fund. Any agreement for compensation between a claimant and any attorney retained for prosecution of the claim ~~shall be~~is subject to the approval of the commission.

**39.9(7)** The commission may request individual lawyers, bar associations, and other organizations of lawyers to assist the commission in the investigation of claims.

**39.9(8)** The payment or denial of any claim filed under the provisions of this rule ~~shall be~~is inadmissible as evidence in any disciplinary or contempt proceeding.

[Court Order December 5, 1973; April 22, 1974; October 16, 1974; April 9, 1975; April 10, 1975; August 29, 1975; October 28, 1976; November 21, 1977; January 15, 1979; June 20, 1980; April 21, 1982; November 13, 1984; April 25, 1985; February 16, 1990, effective March 15, 1990; December 15, 1994, effective January 3, 1995; March 6, 1995; January 24, 2000; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; February 20, 2012; December 10, 2012]

#### **Rule 39.10 Investigations and audits.**

**39.10(1)** Each member of the bar of Iowa, in filing the statement required by rule 39.8(1), ~~shall must~~must authorize the director to investigate, audit, and verify all funds, securities, and other property held in trust by the member, and all related accounts, safe deposit boxes, and any other forms of maintaining trust property as required by Iowa Rule of Professional Conduct 32:1.15 and chapter 45 of the Iowa Court Rules, together with deposit slips, canceled checks, and all other records pertaining to transactions concerning such property.

1 | **39.10(2)** Each member of the bar of Iowa ~~shall~~must comply promptly with any request by the  
2 | director to execute and deliver to the director a written authorization, directed to any bank or  
3 | depository, for the director to audit and inspect such accounts, safe deposit boxes, securities, and  
4 | other forms of maintaining trust property by the member in such bank or other depository.

5 | **39.10(3)** Each member of the bar of Iowa must do all of the following:

6 | a. Cooperate fully with the director in any investigation, audit, or verification of any funds,  
7 | securities, or property held in trust by that lawyer.

8 | b. Answer all questions posed by the director ~~which~~that relate to any investigation, audit, or  
9 | verification, unless claiming the privilege against self-incrimination.

10 | c. Retain complete records of all trust fund transactions for a period of not less than six years  
11 | following completion of the matter to which they relate, in accordance with Iowa Rule of  
12 | Professional Conduct 32:1.15 and Iowa ~~Ct.R.~~Court Rule 45.2(3).

13 | **39.10(4)** The commission with the approval of the supreme court may retain, compensate  
14 | from the fund, and furnish as staff for the director, such public or certified accountants,  
15 | investigators, or attorneys as may be deemed necessary to carry out the duties and functions  
16 | imposed upon the director. When acting under the director's supervision and direction, such staff  
17 | personnel ~~shall~~ have all the powers granted to the director by this chapter.

18 | **39.10(5)** When the investigation, audit, or verification provisions of this chapter disclose, in  
19 | the opinion of the director, a violation of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, or when the  
20 | member of the bar of Iowa affected by the investigation, audit, or verification has refused to  
21 | comply with the provisions of this chapter, the director ~~shall~~must promptly report such  
22 | circumstances to the commission. A copy of such report ~~shall~~must be furnished to the member  
23 | affected.

24 | **39.10(6)** ~~However, client~~Client trust funds and property held by an Iowa licensed attorney  
25 | whose law office is situated in another state ~~shall~~are not be subject to investigation, audit, or  
26 | verification except to the extent such funds and property are related to matters affecting Iowa  
27 | clients. State or federal funds or property subject to state or federal auditing procedures and in  
28 | control of an Iowa licensed attorney employed full- or part-time by a state or the United States  
29 | ~~shall~~are not be subject to investigation, audit, or verification under the provisions of this chapter.

30 | **39.10(7)** The costs of performing a trust account audit must be assessed to the attorney or  
31 | attorneys who are signatories on the account if the audit reveals the account was not in  
32 | substantial compliance with Iowa Rule of Professional Conduct 32:1.15 or chapter 45 of the  
33 | Iowa Court Rules, and one or more of the following circumstances caused performance of the  
34 | audit:

35 | a. A claim for reimbursement was filed under the provisions of rule 39.9 based on the alleged  
36 | conduct of the attorney or attorneys who are signatories on the account.

37 | b. A notice of insufficient funds to honor an instrument drawn on the account was reported to  
38 | the commission under the provisions of ~~rule~~Iowa Court Rule 45.4(4)(c).

39 | c. A complaint alleging an attorney signatory on the account committed a disciplinary  
40 | infraction was filed with the attorney disciplinary board under the provisions of ~~rule~~Iowa Court  
41 | Rule 34.1~~35.1~~.

42 | d. An attorney signatory on the account was suspended from practice under the provisions of  
43 | chapter 35 of the Iowa Court Rules.

1 e. An attorney signatory on the account failed to timely file the statement and questionnaire  
2 required by rule 39.8.

3 f. An attorney signatory on the account was served a 15-day notice under rule 39.8(2) based  
4 on failure to cooperate with investigation and audit of the account as required by rule 39.10.

5 g. A trustee was appointed under the provisions of ~~rule Iowa Court Rule 35.17~~34.17 or ~~35.18~~  
6 34.18 for an attorney signatory on the account.

7 ~~g-h.~~ An attorney signatory on the account was issued a certificate of noncompliance pursuant  
8 to ~~rule Iowa Court Rule 34.20(1), 34.21(1), or 34.22(1).~~

9 **39.10(8)** Costs assessed under rule 39.10(7) are due upon assessment by the commission.  
10 Costs assessed under this rule must be paid as a condition of reinstatement, and may be  
11 collected by the commission as part of the annual statement and assessment required by rule  
12 39.8 if not previously paid.

13 [Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 20, 2005, effective July 1,  
14 2005; December 5, 2007; November 20, 2015, effective January 1, 2016]

### 15 16 **Rule 39.11 Annual questionnaire.**

17 **39.11(1)** The director, under the supervision of the supreme court and the commission,  
18 ~~shall will~~ prepare a questionnaire to be annually submitted to and completed by each member of  
19 the bar of Iowa, except those who have been issued a certificate of exemption pursuant to rule  
20 39.7. ~~Said~~ The questionnaire may be, (but is not required to be), incorporated as a part of the  
21 annual statement provided in rule 39.8(1). This purpose of this questionnaire shall is to elicit  
22 information to determine whether the member is complying with the Iowa Court Rules, including  
23 but not restricted to, Iowa Rule of Professional Conduct 32:1.15 and chapter 45 of the rules. The  
24 commission may prescribe an electronic format for the questionnaire and annual statement and  
25 require submission of the questionnaire and annual statement in that form.

26 **39.11(2)** A failure to complete and return a questionnaire ~~shall will~~ be addressed as provided in  
27 rule 39.12.

28 [Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 20, 2005, effective July 1,  
29 2005; December 5, 2007; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008]

### 30 31 **Rule 39.12 Investigations; audits, and; annual questionnaire—; enforcement.**

32 **39.12(1)** *Failure of bar members to cooperate.*

33 a. The ~~continued~~ right of a member of the Iowa bar to practice law in this state is conditioned  
34 upon the member executing and delivering the authorization provided in rule 39.10(2),  
35 furnishing the cooperation required in rule 39.10(3), and completing and returning the annual  
36 questionnaire described in rule 39.11. Upon failure of a member of the Iowa bar to comply with  
37 any of the rules specified in this paragraph, the member's right to practice law before Iowa  
38 courts may be suspended, following the procedure specified in rule 39.8(2).

39 b. A member of the bar of Iowa who willfully fails to comply with ~~those the~~ rules enumerated  
40 in rule 39. 12(1)(a) may be held in contempt of the supreme court or may be subject to  
41 disciplinary action as provided in chapter 35 of the Iowa Court Rules.

42 **39.12(2)** *Violation of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct.*

1       a. When the audit, investigation, or verification of funds, securities, or other property held in  
2 | trust by any member of the bar of Iowa, or ~~a return~~ an answer of any member on the annual  
3 | questionnaire, discloses an apparent violation of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, the  
4 | director upon request of the commission, or the commission, may institute disciplinary  
5 | proceedings under chapter ~~35-36~~ of the Iowa Court Rules for the suspension or revocation of the  
6 | member's license to practice law in this state.

7       b. All information obtained by the director and staff by virtue of the audits, investigations and  
8 | verifications, and annual questionnaire, ~~shall~~ must be held in strict confidence by them and by  
9 | the supreme court and the commission unless otherwise directed by the supreme court or unless  
10 | proceedings are initiated pursuant to chapter ~~35-36~~ of the Iowa Court Rules or Iowa Code  
11 | section 602.10123. If proceedings are initiated pursuant to chapter ~~35-36~~ of the Iowa Court  
12 | Rules, such information relating to the named respondent may be released only to the  
13 | respondent, the disciplinary board, and the grievance commission. If proceedings are initiated  
14 | pursuant to Iowa Code section 602.10123, such information relating to the named accused may  
15 | be released only to the accused and the attorney general or the special assistant attorney general  
16 | designated pursuant to Iowa Code section 602.10127 to prosecute the charges.

17       **39.12(3) Commission subpoena authority.**

18 |       a. The commission ~~shall have~~ has subpoena power during any investigation conducted on its  
19 | behalf to compel the appearance of witnesses or the production of documents before the person  
20 | designated to conduct the investigation on behalf of the commission.

21 |       b. The commission chair, or other commission member in the absence of the chair, ~~shall~~  
22 | ~~have~~ has the authority to issue a subpoena.

23 |       c. The district court for the county in which the investigation is being conducted ~~shall~~  
24 | ~~have~~ has jurisdiction over any objection or motion relating to a subpoena and authority to punish  
25 | disobedience of a subpoena in a contempt proceeding.

26 |       d. Counsel for the commission, the director, or any other person authorized to administer  
27 | oaths ~~shall have~~ has authority to administer an oath or affirmation to a witness.

28 | [Court Order December 5, 1973; September 19, 1974; October 16, 1974; April 9, 1975; April  
29 | 30, 1982; August 14, 1986, and August 18, 1986, effective September 2, 1986; May 10, 1990,  
30 | effective July 2, 1990; December 15, 1994, effective January 3, 1995; November 9, 2001,  
31 | effective February 15, 2002; April 9, 2003; April 20, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; December 5,  
32 | 2007]

34       **Rule 39.13 Attorneys acting as fiduciaries.**

35       **39.13(1)** After January 1, 1974, unless a lawyer is the spouse of or is the son-in-law or  
36 | daughter-in-law of or is related by consanguinity or affinity, within the third degree, to the  
37 | decedent in an estate, the ward in a conservatorship, the settlor or beneficiary of a trust, or  
38 | unless such attorney is coexecutor, cotrustee, or coconservator with another party or parties and  
39 | such other party or parties will receive and pay out any of the funds, securities or other property  
40 | of the estate, trust, or conservatorship, such lawyer ~~shall~~ must not be appointed by a court in any  
41 | fiduciary capacity for an estate, trust, or conservatorship until the lawyer has posted a bond in an  
42 | amount to be determined by the court with sureties approved by the court, and no waiver of such  
43 | bond ~~shall~~ will be recognized by any court of this state. In the event the surety on the bond

1 | posted by the lawyer is not a corporate surety, the surety thereon ~~shall~~must not be the ward, any  
2 | beneficiary or distributee or be related to the lawyer, the ward, or any beneficiary or distributee  
3 | within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity.

4 | **39.13(2)** A lawyer who willfully fails to comply with the provisions of this rule may be held in  
5 | contempt of the supreme court, or may be subject to disciplinary action as provided in chapter 35  
6 | of the Iowa Court Rules.

7 | [Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

8 | ~~See Iowa Code §§633.173, 633.175.~~

9 |  
10 | **Rule 39.14 Reinstatement from exemption or suspension.**

11 | **39.14(1)** An attorney who has been suspended for failure to pay the annual fee or assessment or  
12 | for failure to file the statement, supplement, or questionnaire required by these rules may be  
13 | reinstated upon a showing that such failure was not willful and by filing the statement required by  
14 | rule 39.8(1) and the questionnaire required by rule 39.11. An attorney seeking reinstatement after  
15 | suspension for failure to comply with the provisions of this rule ~~shall~~must pay all delinquent fees,  
16 | assessments and late filing penalties due under rules 39.5, 39.6 ~~and~~ 39.8, and 39.17, and a  
17 | reinstatement fee of \$100.

18 | **39.14(2)** An attorney who seeks or applies for reinstatement from suspension under ~~chapter~~  
19 | ~~35~~chapters 34 or 36 of the Iowa Court Rules must first file the statement required by rule 39.8(1)  
20 | and the questionnaire required by rule 39.11, pay all fees, assessments, and late filing penalties  
21 | due and unpaid under rules 39.5, 39.6, ~~and 39.8, and 39.17~~ at the time of the suspension, pay the  
22 | current fee and assessment required by rules 39.5 and 39.6, and pay a reinstatement fee of \$100.

23 | **39.14(3)** An attorney who has been granted a certificate of exemption under the provisions of  
24 | rule 39.7 may be reinstated after filing the statement required by rule 39.8(1) and the  
25 | questionnaire required by rule 39.11, paying all late filing penalties due at the time the  
26 | exemption was granted, and paying the current fee and assessment required by rules 39.5 and  
27 | 39.6.

28 | [Court Order April 25, 2008; August 10, 2009; November 20, 2015, effective January 1, 2016]

29 |  
30 | **Rule 39.15 Denial of reinstatement for failure to comply with certain obligations.**

31 | **39.15(1)** *Denial of reinstatement for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected*  
32 | *by the ~~Centralized~~Central Collection Unit of the Iowa Department of Revenue.* The supreme  
33 | court may deny an attorney's application for reinstatement under rule 39.14 for failure to comply  
34 | with an obligation owed to or collected by the ~~Centralized~~Central Collection Unit of the Iowa  
35 | Department of Revenue. The procedure ~~shall be~~ is governed by ~~rule~~Iowa Court Rule  
36 | ~~35.22~~34.22.

37 | **39.15(2)** *Denial of reinstatement for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected*  
38 | *by the College Student Aid Commission.* The supreme court may deny an attorney's application  
39 | for reinstatement under rule 39.14 for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected  
40 | by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. The procedure ~~shall be~~ is governed by ~~rule~~Iowa  
41 | Court Rule 35.2134.21.

1     **39.15(3) Denial of reinstatement for failure to comply with a support order.** The supreme  
2 court may deny an attorney's application for reinstatement under rule 39.14 for failure to comply  
3 with a support order. The procedure ~~shall be~~ is governed by rule ~~35.20~~ 34.20.

4 [Court Order June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; February 20, 2012]

5  
6     **Rule 39.16 Attorneys ~~Practicing~~ practicing in Iowa ~~Under~~ under the ~~Multijurisdictional~~**  
7 **~~Practice Rule~~ multijurisdictional practice rule.** An attorney who establishes an office or other  
8 systematic and continuous presence in Iowa for the practice of law under the provisions of rule of  
9 professional conduct 32:5.5(d)(2) ~~shall~~ must file the annual statement required by rule 39.8(1) and  
10 annual questionnaire required by rule 39.11, pay the annual fee and assessment due under rules  
11 39.5 and 39.6, comply with all provisions of chapter 45 of the Iowa Court Rules, cooperate with  
12 investigations and audits under rule 39.10, and be subject to the provisions of rule 39.12 and  
13 39.17.

14 [Court Order December 10, 2012]

15  
16     **Rule 39.17 Collection of court costs and other fees.**

17     **39.17(1)** As a part of the annual statement provided by rule 39.8(1), the office of professional  
18 regulation must assess against each active attorney all fees, penalties, or court costs due any  
19 district court clerk or the clerk of the supreme court, or the office of professional regulation, and  
20 any client security trust fund claim reimbursement due the ~~client security commission~~ Client  
21 Security Commission, that are a personal obligation of such attorney, as of the preparation date  
22 of the annual statement.

23     **39.17(2)** As a condition to continuing or regaining membership in the bar of the supreme  
24 court, including the right to practice before Iowa courts, every bar member must pay to the  
25 supreme court through the office of professional regulation, all fees, penalties, court costs, and  
26 client security trust fund claim reimbursements assessed on the annual statement.

27     **39.17(3)** Assessments are due on or before March 10 of each year.

28     **39.17(4)** The director of the office of professional regulation must pay to the state general fund  
29 all fees, penalties, and court costs due the state general fund and collected under this provision.

30 [Court Order November 20, 2015, effective January 1, 2016]

31  
32     **Rule 39.18 Requirement for death or disability designation and authorization.**

33     **39.18(1) Required designation and authorization in annual questionnaire.**

34     *a.* Each attorney in private practice must identify and authorize each year, as part of the annual  
35 questionnaire required by rule 39.11, a qualified attorney-servicing association, an Iowa law firm  
36 that includes Iowa attorneys in good standing, or an active Iowa attorney in good standing, to  
37 serve as the attorney's designated representative or representatives under this rule. An attorney  
38 may identify and authorize an Iowa law firm of which the attorney is a member to serve under  
39 this rule.

40     *b.* The attorney or entity designated under this rule is authorized to review client files, notify  
41 each client of the attorney's death or disability, and determine whether there is a need for other  
42 immediate action to protect the interests of clients.



1 c. The attorney or entity designated under this rule also is authorized to serve as a successor  
2 signatory for any client trust account maintained by the private practitioner under ~~rule~~ Iowa  
3 Court Rule 45.11, prepare final trust accountings for clients, make trust account disbursements,  
4 properly dispose of inactive files, and arrange for storage of files and trust account records.

5 d. The authority of the attorney or entity designated under this rule takes effect upon the death  
6 or disability of the designated attorney. The designated attorney or entity may apply to the chief  
7 judge of the judicial district in which the designating attorney practiced for an order confirming  
8 the death or disability of the designating attorney.

9 **39.18(2) *Client list and location of key information.*** Each attorney in private practice must  
10 maintain a current list of active clients, in a location accessible by the attorney or entity  
11 designated under this rule. As part of the annual questionnaire required by rule 39.11, each  
12 attorney in private practice must identify the custodian and the location of the client list, the  
13 custodian and location of electronic and paper files and records, and the custodian and location  
14 of passwords and other security protocols required to access the electronic files and records. The  
15 attorney or entity designated under this rule is authorized to access electronic and paper files and  
16 records as necessary to perform duties as a designated attorney, and is authorized to access  
17 passwords and other security protocols required to access those electronic files and records.

18 **39.18(3) *Supplemental plan.*** An attorney in private practice may prepare a written plan that is  
19 supplemental to the designation and authority in the annual client security questionnaire. The  
20 supplemental written plan may designate an attorney or entity to collect fees, pay firm expenses  
21 and client costs, compensate staff, terminate leases, liquidate or sell the practice, or perform  
22 other law firm administration tasks. The supplemental written plan also may nominate an  
23 attorney or entity to serve as trustee if proceedings are commenced under the provisions of ~~rule~~  
24 Iowa Court Rule 34.17 or 34.18.

25 **39.18(4) *Durability.*** A designation or plan under this rule must include language sufficient to  
26 make the designated attorney's or entity's powers durable in the event of the private  
27 practitioner's disability. *See* Iowa Code §633B.104; Iowa R. Prof'l Conduct 32:1.3 cmt. [5].

28 **39.18(5) *Conflicts of interest.*** A designated attorney or entity must not examine any documents  
29 or acquire any information containing real or potential conflicts with the designated attorney's  
30 clients. Should any such information be acquired inadvertently, the designated attorney or entity  
31 must, as to such matters, protect the privacy interests of the planning attorney's clients by prompt  
32 recusal or refusal of employment.

33 **39.18(6) *Availability of trustee provisions.*** A designated attorney or entity may petition the  
34 court, at any time, for appointment as the trustee or appointment of an independent trustee under  
35 the provisions of ~~rule~~ Iowa Court Rule 34.17 or 34.18, as applicable.

36 **39.18(7) *Definitions.*** For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

37 a. A "qualified attorney-servicing association" is a bar association, all or part of whose  
38 members are admitted to practice law in the ~~state~~ State of Iowa; a company authorized to sell  
39 attorneys professional liability insurance in Iowa; or an Iowa bank with trust powers issued by the  
40 Iowa Division of Banking.

41 b. A "law firm" is a minimum of two attorneys in a law partnership, professional corporation,  
42 or other association authorized to practice law.

1       c. An “*attorney in private practice*” includes an active Iowa attorney who resides outside  
2 Iowa but engages in the private practice of law in Iowa.  
3 [Court Order November 20, 2015, effective January 1, 2016; November 24, 2015, effective  
4 March 1, 2016; January 15, 2016, effective January 1, 2017; August 29, 2016, effective January  
5 1, 2018; November 18, 2016, effective December 25, 2017]