

(q) "Writing" or "written" denotes a tangible or electronic record of a communication or representation, including handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photography, audio or videorecording and electronic communications. A "signed" writing includes an electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a writing and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the writing.

Adopted 01/01/05

Amended 01/01/14: "Electronic communications" substituted for "email."

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule replaces DR 10-101 and is significantly more expansive. Some DR 10-101 definitions were retained, but others were not incorporated into this rule.

The definition of "firm member" was eliminated as not necessary, but a reference to "of counsel" was retained in the definition of "firm." The definition of "firm" also distinguishes office sharers and lawyers working in a firm on a limited basis.

The concept of "full disclosure" is replaced by "informed consent," which, in some cases, must be "confirmed in writing."

The definition of "professional legal corporation" was deleted, as the term does not appear in any of the rules and does not require explanation.

The definitions of "person" and "state" were also eliminated as being unnecessary.

Comparison to ABA Model Rule

The Model Rules do not define "information relating to the representation of a client;" it was added here to make it clear that ORPC 1.6 continues to protection of the same information protected by DR 4-101 and the term is defined with the DR definitions of confidences and secrets. The MR definition of "firm" was revised to include a reference to "of counsel" lawyers. The MR definition of "knowingly, known or knows" was revised to include language from DR 5-105(B) regarding knowledge of the existence of a conflict of interest. The definition of "matter" was moved to this rule from MR 1.11 on the belief that it has a broader application than to only former government lawyer conflicts. The MR definition of "writing" has been expanded to include "facsimile" communications.

CLIENT-LAWYER RELATIONSHIP

RULE 1.1 COMPETENCE

A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

Adopted 01/01/05

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Reasonably"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is identical to DR 6-101(A).

Comparison to ABA Model Rule

This is the ABA Model Rule.

RULE 1.2 SCOPE OF REPRESENTATION AND ALLOCATION OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN CLIENT AND LAWYER

(a) Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c), a lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives of representation and, as required by Rule 1.4, shall consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued. A lawyer may take such action on behalf of the client as is impliedly authorized to carry out the representation. A lawyer shall abide by a client's decision whether to settle a matter. In a criminal case, the lawyer shall abide by the client's decision, after consultation with the lawyer, as to a plea to be entered, whether to waive jury trial and whether the client will testify.

(b) A lawyer may limit the scope of the representation if the limitation is reasonable under the circumstances and the client gives informed consent.

(c) A lawyer shall not counsel a client to engage, or assist a client, in conduct that the lawyer knows is illegal or fraudulent, but a lawyer may discuss the legal consequences of any proposed course of conduct with a client and may counsel or assist a client to make a good faith effort to determine the validity, scope, meaning or application of the law.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), a lawyer may counsel and assist a client regarding Oregon's marijuana-related laws. In the event Oregon law conflicts with federal or tribal law, the lawyer shall also advise the client regarding related federal and tribal law and policy.

Adopted 01/01/05

Amended 02/XX/15: Paragraph (d) added

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Fraudulent"
"Informed consent"
"Knows"
"Matter"
"Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no real counterpart in the Oregon Code. Subsection (a) is similar to DR 7-101(A) and (B), but expresses more clearly that lawyers must defer to the client's decisions about the objectives of the representation and whether to settle a matter. Subsection (b) is a clarification of the lawyer's right to limit the scope of a representation. Subsection (c) is similar to DR 7-102(A)(7), but recognizes that counseling a client about the meaning of a law or the consequences of proposed illegal or fraudulent conduct is not the same as assisting the client in such conduct. Paragraph (d) had no counterpart in the Oregon Code.

Comparison to ABA Model Rule

ABA Model Rule 1.2(b) states that a lawyer's representation of a client "does not constitute an endorsement of the client's political, economic, social or moral views or activities." It was omitted because it is not a rule of discipline, but rather a statement intended to encourage lawyers to represent unpopular clients. Also, MR 1.2(c) refers to "criminal" rather than "illegal" conduct.

RULE 1.3 DILIGENCE

A lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Adopted 01/01/05

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0)

"Matter"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is identical to DR 6-101(B).

Comparison to ABA Model Rule

The ABA Model Rule requires a lawyer to "act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client."

RULE 1.4 COMMUNICATION

(a) A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information

(b) A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Adopted 01/01/05

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knows"
"Reasonable"
"Reasonably"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no counterpart in the Oregon Code, although the duty to communicate with a client may be inferred from other rules and from the law of agency.

Comparison to ABA Model Rule

This is the former ABA Model Rule. ABA MR 1.4 as amended in 2002 incorporates provisions previously found in MR 1.2; it also specifically identifies five aspects of the duty to communicate.

RULE 1.5 FEES

(a) A lawyer shall not enter into an agreement for, charge or collect an illegal or clearly excessive fee or a clearly excessive amount for expenses.

(b) A fee is clearly excessive when, after a review of the facts, a lawyer of ordinary prudence would be left with a definite and firm conviction that the fee is in excess of a reasonable fee. Factors to be considered as guides in determining the reasonableness of a fee include the following:

- (1) the time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly;**
- (2) the likelihood, if apparent to the client, that the acceptance of the particular employment will preclude other employment by the lawyer;**
- (3) the fee customarily charged in the locality for similar legal services;**
- (4) the amount involved and the results obtained;**
- (5) the time limitations imposed by the client or by the circumstances;**
- (6) the nature and length of the professional relationship with the client;**
- (7) the experience, reputation, and ability of the lawyer or lawyers performing the services; and**
- (8) whether the fee is fixed or contingent.**

(c) A lawyer shall not enter into an arrangement for, charge or collect:

- (1) any fee in a domestic relations matter, the payment or amount of which is contingent upon the securing of a divorce or upon the amount of spousal or child support or a property settlement;**

Adopted 01/01/05

Amended 1/11/2018 to add subsection "d" relating to mediation communications.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Knows"

"Substantial"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule replaces DR 1-103(A) and (E). Paragraph (a) is essentially the same as DR 1-103(A), although the exception for confidential client information is found in paragraph (c). Also, the rule now requires that misconduct be reported to the OSB Client Assistance Office, to conform to changes in the Bar Rules of Procedure that were effective August 1, 2003.

Paragraph (b) has no counterpart in the Oregon Code, although the obligation might be inferred from DR 1-103(A).

Paragraph (c) incorporates the exception for information protected by rule and statute. It also incorporates the exception contained in DR 1-103(E).

Comparison to ABA Model Rule

This is essentially the ABA Model Rule, expanded slightly. Paragraph (c) includes a reference to ORS 9.460(3) to parallel the exceptions in DR 1-103(A). Paragraph (c) in the Model Rule refers only to "information gained...while participating in an approved lawyer assistance program."

RULE 8.4 MISCONDUCT

(a) It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

- (1) violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another;**
- (2) commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects;**
- (3) engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation that reflects adversely on the lawyer's fitness to practice law;**
- (4) engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice; or**
- (5) state or imply an ability to influence improperly a government agency or official or to achieve results by means that violate these Rules or other law, or**
- (6) knowingly assist a judge or judicial officer in conduct that is a violation of applicable rules of judicial conduct or other law.**

(7) in the course of representing a client, knowingly intimidate or harass a person because of that person's race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)(1), (3) and (4) and Rule 3.3(a)(1), it shall not be professional misconduct for a lawyer to advise clients or others about or to supervise lawful covert activity in the investigation of violations of civil or criminal law or constitutional rights, provided the lawyer's conduct is otherwise in compliance with these Rules of Professional Conduct. "Covert activity," as used in this rule, means an effort to obtain information on unlawful activity through the use of misrepresentations or other subterfuge. "Covert activity" may be commenced by a lawyer or involve a lawyer as an advisor or supervisor only when the lawyer in good faith believes there is a reasonable possibility that unlawful activity has taken place, is taking place or will take place in the foreseeable future.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(7), a lawyer shall not be prohibited from engaging in legitimate advocacy with respect to the bases set forth therein.

Adopted 01/01/05

Amended 12/01/06: Paragraph (a)(5) added.

Amended 02/XX/15: Paragraphs (a)(7) and (c) added.

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"

"Fraud"

"Knowingly"

"Reasonable"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule is essentially the same as DR 1-102(A).

Paragraph (b) retains DR 1-102(D).

Comparison to ABA Model Rule

Paragraphs (a)(1) through (6) are the same as Model Rule 8.4(a) through (f), except that MR 8.4(a) also prohibits attempts to violate the rules. Paragraph (a)(7) reflects language in Comment [3] of the Model Rule.

Paragraphs (b) and (d) have no counterpart in the Model Rule.

RULE 8.5 DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY; CHOICE OF LAW

(a) Disciplinary Authority. A lawyer admitted to practice in this jurisdiction is subject to the disciplinary authority of this jurisdiction, regardless of where the lawyer's conduct occurs. A lawyer not admitted in this jurisdiction is also subject to the disciplinary authority of this jurisdiction if the lawyer provides or offers to provide any legal services in this jurisdiction. A lawyer may be subject to the disciplinary authority of both this jurisdiction and another jurisdiction for the same conduct.

(b) Choice of Law. In any exercise of the disciplinary authority of this jurisdiction, the Rules of Professional Conduct to be applied shall be as follows:

(1) for conduct in connection with a matter pending before a tribunal, the rules of the jurisdiction in which the tribunal sits, unless the rules of the tribunal provide otherwise; and

(2) for any other conduct, the rules of the jurisdiction in which the lawyer's conduct occurred, or, if the predominant effect of the conduct is in a different jurisdiction, the rules of that jurisdiction shall be applied to the conduct. A lawyer shall not be subject to discipline if the lawyer's conduct conforms to the rules of a jurisdiction in which the lawyer reasonably believes the predominant effect of the lawyer's conduct will occur.

Adopted 01/01/05

Defined Terms (see Rule 1.0):

"Believes"

"Matter"

"Reasonably believes"

"Tribunal"

Comparison to Oregon Code

This rule has no counterpart in the Oregon Code. A similar version based on *former* ABA Model Rule 8.5 was adopted by the Supreme Court in 1996 as Bar Rule of Procedure 1.4.

BR 1.4(a) specifically provides that the Supreme Court's jurisdiction over a lawyer's conduct continues whether or

not the lawyer retains authority to practice law in Oregon and regardless of where the lawyer resides.

BR 1.4(b)(1) is essentially the same as 8.5(b)(1).

BR 1.4(b)(2) applies the Oregon Code if the lawyer is licensed only in Oregon. If the lawyer is licensed in Oregon and another jurisdiction, the rules of the jurisdiction in which the lawyer principally practices apply, or if the conduct has its predominant effect in another jurisdiction in which the lawyer is licensed, then the rules of that jurisdiction will apply.

Comparison to ABA Model Rule

This is the ABA Model Rule, as amended in 2002 in conjunction with the adoption of the amendments to Rule 5.5 regarding multijurisdictional practice. As amended, the rule applies to lawyers not licensed in the jurisdiction if they render or offer to render any legal services in the jurisdiction.

RULE 8.6 WRITTEN ADVISORY OPINIONS ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT; CONSIDERATION GIVEN IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

(a) The Oregon State Bar Board of Governors may issue formal written advisory opinions on questions under these Rules. The Oregon State Bar Legal Ethics Committee and General Counsel's Office may also issue informal written advisory opinions on questions under these Rules. The General Counsel's Office of the Oregon State Bar shall maintain records of both OSB formal and informal written advisory opinions and copies of each shall be available to the Oregon Supreme Court, Disciplinary Board, State Professional Responsibility Board, and Disciplinary Counsel. The General Counsel's Office may also disseminate the bar's advisory opinions as it deems appropriate to its role in educating lawyers about these Rules.

(b) In considering alleged violations of these Rules, the Disciplinary Board and Oregon Supreme Court may consider any lawyer's good faith effort to comply with an opinion issued under paragraph (a) of this rule as:

(1) a showing of the lawyer's good faith effort to comply with these Rules; and

(2) a basis for mitigation of any sanction that may be imposed if the lawyer is found to be in violation of these Rules.

(c) This rule is not intended to, and does not, preclude the Disciplinary Board or the Oregon Supreme Court from considering any other evidence of either good faith or basis for mitigation in a bar disciplinary proceeding.

Adopted 01/01/05