

STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
AMENDMENTS TO
MAINE BAR RULES

2022 Me. Rules 02

Effective: July 1, 2022

All of the Justices concurring therein, the following amendments to the Maine Bar Rules are adopted to be effective on the date indicated above. The specific amendments are stated below. To aid in the understanding of the amendments, an Advisory Note appears after the text of each amendment. The Advisory Note states the reason for recommending the amendment, but the Advisory Note is not part of the amendment adopted by the Court.

1. Rule 1(g) of the Maine Bar Rules is amended to read as follows:

RULE 1. STRUCTURE

....

(g) Roster of Lawyers. The Board shall maintain current information relating to all lawyers admitted to the Maine Bar including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) full name and all names under which the lawyer has been admitted or practiced;
- (2) date of birth;
- (3) current office address, telephone number, and email address;
- (4) current residence address, telephone number, and email address;
- (5) date of admission to the Maine Bar;
- (6) registration status and the date of any transfer to or from a status;

- (7) social security or federal identification number;
- (8) other jurisdictions in which the lawyer is admitted and date of admission;
- (9) location and account numbers in which clients' funds are held by the lawyer;
- (10) nature, date, and place of any discipline imposed and any reinstatements in any other jurisdiction;
- (11) whether the lawyer, if engaged in the private practice of law, maintains professional liability insurance (*see* Rule 4(b)(4));
- (12) if engaged in the private practice of law in Maine, the name of an active status attorney who has consented to serve as a proxy on behalf of the attorney (*see* Rule 32);~~and~~
- (13) the bar number assigned to every admitted lawyer;and
- (14) an email address to be used by other parties and the courts for electronic service of documents, notices, and any other records through any electronic court systems implemented by the Maine Judicial Branch.

The information submitted pursuant to this rule shall be made available to the public with the exception of information deemed confidential by the Board.

Advisory Note – July 2022

Rule 1 is amended to add subdivision (g)(14), which requires an admitted lawyer to specify an email address to be used by other parties and the courts for electronic service of documents, notices, and any other records through the electronic court systems implemented by the Maine Judicial Branch.

Two or more lawyers may designate a common email address for electronic service, but each lawyer is independently bound by service directed to that address and each lawyer is independently responsible for compliance with the requirements of this rule. The email address required under this rule

for electronic service need not be the same as other email addresses maintained by the lawyer for other purposes.

A lawyer may satisfy the requirements of subdivision (g)(14) by providing the email address as part of a timely submission of the lawyer's annual registration to the Board of Overseers of the Bar during the registration period ending on August 31, 2022, and, thereafter, by notifying the Board immediately upon any change in the lawyer's service email address. See Rule 4(a).

A lawyer who is currently rostered by the Board of Overseers as inactive is relieved of the duty to provide email service addresses as provided by with Rules 1(g)(14) and 4(a) unless and until such time as the lawyer is reinstated to active status pursuant to Rule 4(j).

2. Rule 4(a) of the Maine Bar Rules is amended to read as follows:

RULE 4. REGISTRATION

(a) Requirement. Every lawyer admitted to active practice in Maine shall pay to the Board an annual registration fee for each fiscal year beginning July 1st. The annual registration fee, established by the Court on recommendation of the Board, shall be used to defray the costs of the Board and of other components of the system of lawyer regulation under other rules established by the Court, and for those other purposes the Court shall from time to time designate.

Additionally, in accordance with the Rules for the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers Rule 1(C)(1) and the Maine Rules for the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection Rule 3(a), every lawyer admitted to active practice and full-time and active retired judges required to register in accordance with these Rules shall pay assessments in support of the mission of these entities. The assessments shall be established by the Court.

Every lawyer admitted to active practice in Maine shall provide as part of the annual registration process required by Rule 4(b) an active, current email address for electronic service that will be used by other parties and the courts for electronic service of documents, notices, and any other records through any

electronic court systems implemented by the Maine Judicial Branch and shall notify the Board immediately of any change in that address.

Advisory Note – July 2022

Rule 4(a) is amended to incorporate a third paragraph requiring every lawyer admitted to active practice in Maine to provide, as part of the annual registration process, an active, current email address for electronic service that will be used by other parties and the courts for electronic service of documents, notices, and any other records through electronic court systems and to notify the Board immediately of any change in that address. See Rule 1(g)(14) and Advisory Note.

A lawyer who is currently rostered by the Board of Overseers as inactive is relieved of the duty to provide an email service address as provided by Rules 1(g)(14) and 4(a) unless and until such time as the lawyer is reinstated to active status pursuant to Rule 4(j).

Dated: April 26, 2022

FOR THE COURT,*



VALERIE STANFILL
Chief Justice

ANDREW M. MEAD
JOSEPH M. JABAR
THOMAS E. HUMPHREY
ANDREW M. HORTON
CATHERINE R. CONNORS
Associate Justices

* This Rule Amendment Order was approved after conference of the Court, all Justices concurring therein.