

STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
AMENDMENT TO
MAINE RULES FOR THE MAINE CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FUND COMMISSION

2019 Me. Rules 09

Effective: September 19, 2019

All of the Justices concurring therein, the following amendments to the Maine Rules for the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission 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 Committee Note appears after the text of each amendment. The Advisory Committee Note states the reason for recommending the amendment, but the Advisory Committee Note is not part of the amendment adopted by the Court.

1. Rule 3 of the Maine Rules for the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission is amended to read as follows:

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only the following legal service providers are eligible to receive disbursements from the fund to provide free civil legal services in Maine:

A. Nonprofit organizations whose missions include the statewide provision of free civil legal services and who have at least ~~one year~~ five years of experience providing free civil legal services;

B. Legal aid clinics of accredited law schools operating exclusively in Maine; and

C. Programs whose primary mission is to coordinate pro bono legal services on a statewide basis for low-income people in Maine.

Advisory Note – September 2019

Rule 3(A) is amended to provide that a nonprofit organization is eligible to receive disbursements from the fund if it has a mission that includes the *statewide* provision of free legal services and has at least *five* years of experience providing free civil legal services, rather than the previously required one year of experience.

Rule 3(C) is amended to provide for the eligibility of a program that has a primary mission to coordinate pro bono legal services on a *statewide* basis for low-income people in Maine.

Both of these amendments are promulgated to conform with recent statutory amendments. *See* P.L. 2019, ch. 509, § 1 (effective Sept. 19, 2019) (to be codified at 4 M.R.S. § 18-A(1)(B)).

2. Rule 4 of the Maine Rules for the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission is amended to read as follows:

4. **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Commission shall make awards for operational support and for specific programs, in either case to assist with their mission, to those organizations that demonstrate the ability to provide services that efficiently and effectively maintain and enhance access to justice for Low Income People in Maine. The selection criteria may include, but is not limited to, the following categories. *An applicant is not required or expected to demonstrate ability to meet each of the selection criteria.* The selection criteria are not listed in order of importance nor are they given weighted preference in evaluating applications.

....

IV. ~~Serves a broad area, if possible, and does~~ Does not duplicate existing services.

....

Advisory Note – September 2019

Rule 4(IV) is amended to remove the language requiring service of a “broad area, if possible,” given the amendments to Rule 3(A) and (B) above.

3. Rule 5 of the Maine Rules for the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission is amended to read as follows:

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

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F. Applicants must submit ~~an~~ a hardcopy original and ~~two copies~~ an electronic copy of the application and attached materials.

....

Advisory Note – September 2019

Rule 5(F) is amended to require “a hardcopy original and an electronic copy” of the application and attached materials, rather than “an original and two copies” of the application and attached materials.

Dated: September 6, 2019

FOR THE COURT,*

_____/s/_____
LEIGH I. SAUFLEY
Chief Justice

DONALD G. ALEXANDER
ANDREW M. MEAD
ELLEN A. GORMAN
JOSEPH M. JABAR
JEFFREY L. HJELM
THOMAS E. HUMPHREY
Associate Justices

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