

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Re: Amendment of Rules 219(d)(2), (f), (h)(2), (j)(1) and (2), and (k) of PaRDE

Amendment of PaRDE Rule 219 · Decided November 18, 2019

SUMMARY

This per curiam document amends Rules 219(d)(2), (f), (h)(2), (j)(1) and (2), and (k) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement concerning annual attorney registration. The amendments address electronic and mailed payment methods, returned payments, collection fees, late penalties, administrative suspension, and inactive attorney status.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
JURISDICTION	Pennsylvania
DECIDED	November 18, 2019
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania amended provisions of Pennsylvania Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement 219 governing annual attorney registration, payment methods, late penalties, administrative suspension, and changes in attorney status.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	rulemaking order; not a conventional precedential merits opinion

TOPICS

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PRACTICE AREAS

[administrative law](#) [professional responsibility](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Pennsylvania Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement 219 should be amended to revise the permitted methods of annual-fee payment and the consequences of unpaid or returned payments.
2. What registration, penalty, administrative-suspension, reinstatement, and inactive-status procedures apply under the amended Rule 219.

HOLDINGS

1. Rule 219(d)(2) was amended to permit annual fees to be paid electronically by credit or debit card through the Attorney Registration Office's online system or by check or money order drawn on a United States bank, with payment-related collection fees applying to unpaid or returned payments.
2. An attorney who fails to complete registration by the specified deadlines is subject to non-waivable late-payment penalties and, after continued noncompliance, administrative suspension under the amended Rule 219(f).
3. Under the amended Rule 219(h)(2), (j)(1) and (2), and (k), unpaid or returned payments require payment of an applicable collection fee and may result in return to administrative suspension or inactive status, as applicable.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Payment of the annual fee shall be made in one of two ways”

“Any attorney who fails to complete registration by July 16 shall be automatically assessed a non-waivable late payment penalty established by the Board.”

“continued failure to comply with this rule shall be deemed a request to be administratively suspended.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The rule governs annual registration and fee payments by attorneys subject to Pennsylvania's disciplinary-enforcement rules. The amendments replace references to returned checks with broader references to returned or unpaid payments and establish procedures for electronic filing, electronic or mailed payment, collection fees, late penalties, and administrative status changes.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania promulgated amendments to Rule 219(d)(2), (f), (h)(2), (j)(1) and (2), and (k). The text provided contains the amended rule provisions and does not identify a lower-court proceeding.

DISPOSITION

other