

(l) If the Corporation reasonably believes that a requester or group of requesters is attempting to break a request into a series of requests for the purpose of evading the assessment of fees, the Corporation shall aggregate such requests and charge accordingly. Likewise, the Corporation will aggregate multiple requests for documents received from the same requester within 45 days.

(m) The Corporation reserves the right to limit the number of copies that will be provided of any document to any one requester or to require that special arrangements for duplication be made in the case of bound volumes or other records representing unusual problems of handling or reproduction.

[63 FR 41196, Aug. 3, 1998, as amended by 68 FR 7437, Feb. 14, 2003]

§ 1602.14 Submitter's rights process.

(a) When the Corporation receives a FOIA request seeking the release of a submitter's grant application(s), or portions thereof, the Corporation shall provide prompt written notice of the request to the submitter in order to afford the submitter with an opportunity to object to the disclosure of the requested grant application(s) (or any portion thereof). The notice shall reasonably describe the grant application(s), or portions thereof, requested and inform the submitter of the process required by paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) If a submitter who has received notice of a request for the submitter's grant application(s) desires to object to the disclosure of the grant application(s) (or any portion thereof), the submitter must identify the information for which disclosure is objected and provide LSC with a written detailed statement to that effect. The statement must be submitted to the FOIA Officer in the Office of Legal Affairs and must specify the grounds for withholding the information under FOIA or this Part. In particular, the submitter must demonstrate why the information is commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. The submitter's statement must be provided to LSC within seven business days of the date of the notice from the Corporation. If the submitter

fails to respond to the notice from LSC within that time, LSC will deem the submitter to have no objection to the disclosure of the information.

(c) Upon receipt of written objection to disclosure by a submitter, LSC shall consider the submitter's objections and specific grounds for withholding in deciding whether to release the disputed information. Whenever LSC decides to disclose information over the objection of the submitter, LSC shall give the submitter written notice which shall include:

(1) A description of the information to be released and a notice that LSC intends to release the information;

(2) A statement of the reason(s) why the submitter's request for withholding is being rejected; and

(3) Notice that the submitter shall have 5 business days from the date of the notice of proposed release to appeal that decision to the LSC President, whose decision shall be final.

(d) The requirements of this section shall not apply if:

(1) LSC determines upon initial review of the requested grant application(s), or portions thereof, the requested information should not be disclosed;

(2) The information has been previously published or officially made available to the public; or

(3) Disclosure of the information is required by statute (other than FOIA) or LSC regulations.

(e) Whenever a requester files a lawsuit seeking to compel disclosure of a submitter's information, LSC shall promptly notify the submitter.

(f) Whenever LSC provides a submitter with notice and opportunity to oppose disclosure under this section, LSC shall notify the requester that the submitter's rights process under this section has been triggered. Whenever a submitter files a lawsuit seeking to prevent the disclosure of the submitter's information, LSC shall notify the requester.

[68 FR 7438, Feb. 14, 2003]

PART 1603—STATE ADVISORY COUNCILS

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 1004(f), 88 Stat. 379-380 (42 U.S.C. 2996c(f)).

SOURCE: 40 FR 59351, Dec. 23, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1603.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to implement section 1004(f) of the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 2996c(f), which provides authority for the appointment of state advisory councils.

§ 1603.2 Definitions.

As used in this part, the term—

(a) *Act* means the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-355, 88 Stat. 378, 42 U.S.C. 2996-2996f;

(b) *Apparent violation* means a complaint or other written communication alleging facts which, if established, constitute a violation of the Act, or any applicable rules, regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to the Act;

(c) *Board* means the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation;

(d) *Corporation* means the Legal Services Corporation established under the Act;

(e) *Council* means a state advisory council established pursuant to Section 1004(f) of the Act;

(f) *Eligible client* means any person financially unable to afford legal assistance;

(g) *Governor* means the chief executive officer of a State;

(h) *Recipient* means any grantee, contractee, or recipient of financial assistance described in clause (A) of section 1006(a)(1) of the Act;

(i) *State* means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pa-

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cific Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

§ 1603.3 Composition and term of office of council membership.

A council shall be composed of nine members. A majority of the members of a council shall be attorneys admitted to practice in the State. It is recommended that the remainder of the council, to the maximum extent possible, be broadly representative of persons concerned with the effective functioning of legal services programs. Membership of a council shall be subject to annual reappointment, but it is recommended that no member of a council be appointed to serve for more than three consecutive years.

§ 1603.4 Procedure for appointment of council.

At the formal request of the Board, to be made before January 14, 1976, the Governor may appoint a council for the State. Those council members who are attorneys admitted to practice in the State shall be appointed by the Governor after recommendations have been received from the State bar association. In making such appointments, it is recommended the the Governor consult with other bar associations in the State, representatives of groups concerned with the interests of recipients, eligible clients and other interested groups. It is recommended that the Governor appoint attorneys who have interest in and knowledge of the delivery of quality legal services to the poor, and that the remaining members of the council, who are not attorneys, be selected after the Governor has consulted with representatives of groups concerned with the interests of eligible clients. It is recommended that the Governor seek recommendations from recipients in the State before appointing any members to the council. Sixty days prior to the expiration of a member's term, the Governor shall notify those groups mentioned in this Section so that their recommendations may be solicited for purposes of appointment of a new member or reappointment of an incumbent member of the council.

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§ 1603.5 Council purpose and duties.

(a) The purpose of the council shall be to notify the Corporation of any apparent violation as defined in §1603.2(b) of this chapter.

(b) In fulfilling the purpose set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, the council shall forward any apparent violation to the Corporation. The Chairperson of the council shall inform the complainant, the Corporation and the recipient of any action taken on the complaint. Notification of an apparent violation forwarded by the council to the Corporation shall not necessarily constitute a position of the council concerning the apparent violation.

(c) These procedures are not exclusive. Complaints may be submitted to the Corporation, and complaints submitted to a council may be submitted to the Corporation without regard to council action. The Corporation shall inform the complainant, the council and the recipient of all action taken on the complaint.

§ 1603.6 Duties of Corporation upon receipt of notification of violation.

(a) Upon receipt of a notification of an apparent violation, the matters contained therein shall be investigated and resolved by the Corporation in accordance with the Act and rules and regulations issued thereunder.

(b) Upon receipt from a council of a notification of an apparent violation, the Corporation shall allow any recipient affected thereby a reasonable time (but in no case less than thirty days) to reply to any allegation contained in the notification.

(c) The Corporation shall inform the Chairperson of a council of the action, if any, the Corporation has taken with regard to any notification received from such council.

§ 1603.7 Organization and procedural functioning of council.

(a) Within 30 days after the appointment of the council, and annually thereafter, the Governor shall send to the Secretary of the Corporation in Washington, DC, a list of the members of the council for the State that shall include the name, address and telephone number of each council member,

and indicate which members are attorneys.

(b) It is recommended that the Governor appoint from among those named to the council a Chairperson of the council.

(c) It is recommended that each council establish at its first meeting such fair and reasonable procedures for its operation as it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose set forth in §1603.5(a) of this chapter. The procedures for operation of the council shall include provisions for notifying the appropriate regional director of the Corporation of the time and place of any meeting of the council.

(d) It is recommended that a council meet at the call of the Chairperson thereof, or at the request to the Chairperson of at least four members thereof, at such times as may be necessary to carry out its duties, but at least annually.

§ 1603.8 Corporation support of council.

(a) The Corporation shall inform the Chairperson of each council of the funds available to the council from the Corporation for actual and reasonable expenses incurred by members of the council to pursue council business.

(b) It shall be the duty of the President of the Corporation to keep the Chairperson of each council informed of the work of the Corporation.

(c) The Secretary of the Corporation shall mail annually to each recipient the name and address of the Chairperson of the appropriate council and a form of notice indicating where complaints may be sent. The recipient shall post said name and address of the Chairperson and said notice in plain public view in each office of the recipient.

§ 1603.9 Annual report of council.

On or before March 31, 1977, and on or before March 31 of each succeeding year, a council shall submit to the Corporation a report of the activities of the council during the previous calendar year. The report may contain comments or suggestions regarding how best to provide high quality legal assistance to the poor, and regarding such other matters having to do with

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provision of legal services to eligible clients in the State as the council may deem advisable.

§ 1603.10 Multi-state recipients.

Where a recipient has offices in more than one State, the council of the State in which the apparent violation occurred has the responsibility for notifying the Corporation and the recipient at its local and administrative offices.

PART 1604—OUTSIDE PRACTICE OF LAW

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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 2996e(b)(3), 2996e(d)(6), 2996f(a)(4), 2996g(e).

SOURCE: 68 FR 67377, Dec. 2, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1604.1 Purpose.

This part is intended to provide guidance to recipients in adopting written policies relating to the outside practice of law by recipients' full-time attorneys. Under the standards set forth in this part, recipients are authorized, but not required, to permit attorneys, to the extent that such activities do not hinder fulfillment of their overriding responsibility to serve those eligible for assistance under the Act, to engage in pro bono legal assistance and comply with the reasonable demands made upon them as members of the Bar and as officers of the Court.

§ 1604.2 Definitions.

As used in this part—

(a) *Full-time attorney* means an attorney who is employed full-time by a recipient in legal assistance activities supported in major part by the Corporation, and who is authorized to practice law in the jurisdiction where assistance is provided.

(b) *Outside practice of law* means the provision of legal assistance to a client who is not receiving that legal assistance from the employer of the full-

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time attorney rendering assistance, but does not include court appointments except where specifically stated or the performance of duties as a Judge Advocate General Corps attorney in the United States armed forces reserves.

(c) *Court appointment* means an appointment in a criminal or civil case made by a court or administrative agency under a statute, rule or practice applied generally to attorneys practicing in the court or before the administrative agency where the appointment is made.

§ 1604.3 General policy.

(a) A recipient shall adopt written policies governing the outside practice of law by full-time attorneys that are consistent with the LSC Act, this part and applicable rules of professional responsibility.

(b) A recipient's policies may permit the outside practice of law by full-time attorneys only to the extent allowed by the LSC Act and this part, but may impose additional restrictions as necessary to meet the recipient's responsibilities to clients.

§ 1604.4 Permissible outside practice.

A recipient's written policies may permit a full-time attorney to engage in a specific case or matter that constitutes the outside practice of law if:

(a) The director of the recipient or the director's designee determines that representation in such case or matter is consistent with the attorney's responsibilities to the recipient's clients;

(b) Except as provided in § 1604.7, the attorney does not intentionally identify the case or matter with the Corporation or the recipient; and

(c) The attorney is—

(1) Newly employed and has a professional responsibility to close cases from a previous law practice, and does so on the attorney's own time as expeditiously as possible; or

(2) Acting on behalf of him or herself, a close friend, family member or another member of the recipient's staff; or

(3) Acting on behalf of a religious, community, or charitable group; or