

3-7.12 | DISCIPLINARY REVOCATION OF ADMISSION TO THE FLORIDA BAR

If a disciplinary agency is investigating the conduct of a lawyer, or if such an agency has recommended probable cause, then disciplinary proceedings shall be deemed to be pending and a petition for disciplinary revocation may be filed pursuant to this rule. Disciplinary revocation is tantamount to disbarment in that both sanctions terminate the license and privilege to practice law and both require readmission to practice under the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar. A lawyer may seek disciplinary revocation of admission to The Florida Bar during the progress of disciplinary proceedings in the following manner:

(a) Petition for Disciplinary Revocation. The petition for disciplinary revocation shall be styled "In re(respondent's name)....," titled "Petition for Disciplinary Revocation," filed with the Supreme Court of Florida and shall contain a statement of all past and pending disciplinary actions and criminal proceedings against the petitioner. The statement shall describe the charges made or those under investigation for professional misconduct, results of past proceedings, and the status of pending investigations and proceedings. The petition shall state whether it is with or without leave to apply for readmission to the bar. A copy of the petition shall be served upon the executive director of The Florida Bar.

(b) Judgment. Within 60 days after filing and service of the petition, The Florida Bar shall file with the Supreme Court of Florida its response to the petition either supporting or opposing the petition for disciplinary revocation. The bar's response shall be determined by the bar's board of governors. A copy of the response shall be served upon the petitioner. The Supreme Court of Florida shall consider the petition, any response, and the charges against the petitioner. The Supreme Court of Florida may enter judgment granting disciplinary revocation if it has been shown by the petitioner in a proper and competent manner that the public interest will not be adversely affected by the granting of the petition and that such will neither adversely affect the integrity of the courts nor hinder the administration of justice nor the confidence of the public in the legal profession. If otherwise, the petition shall be denied. If the judgment grants the disciplinary revocation, the judgment may require that the disciplinary revocation be subject to appropriate conditions.



Such conditions may include, but shall not be limited to, requiring the petitioner to submit to a full audit of all client trust accounts, to execute a financial affidavit attesting to current personal and professional financial circumstances, and to maintain a current mailing address with the bar for a period of 5 years after the disciplinary revocation becomes final or such other time as the court may order.

(c) Delay of Disciplinary Proceedings. The filing of a petition for disciplinary revocation shall not stay the progress of the disciplinary proceedings without the approval of the bar's board of governors.

(d) Dismissal of Pending Disciplinary Cases. If disciplinary revocation is granted by the Supreme Court of Florida under this rule, such disciplinary revocation shall serve to dismiss all pending disciplinary cases.

(e) Costs of Pending Disciplinary Cases. The judgment of the court granting disciplinary revocation may impose a judgment for the costs expended by The Florida Bar in all pending disciplinary cases against the respondent. Such costs shall be of the types and amounts authorized elsewhere in these Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

(Added April 12, 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (101 So.3d 807))

(Disciplinary Resignation from the Florida Bar Sunsetting 1-1-06 - Former Rule 3-7.11 renumbered as Rule 3-7.12 March 16, 1990, effective March 17, 1990 (558 So.2d 1008). Amended July 23, 1992, effective Jan. 1, 1993 (605 So.2d 252); July 1, 1993 (621 So.2d 1032); July 17, 1997 (697 So.2d 115); Feb. 8, 2001 (795 So.2d 1); Deleted October 6, 2005, effective January 1, 2006.)

Comments

The disciplinary revocation rule replaces the former disciplinary resignation rule, but with added safeguards. Disciplinary revocation is allowed for a minimum of 5 years up to permanent disciplinary revocation. The bar's response to all such petitions must be determined by the bar's board of governors. Disciplinary revocation, like the formerly allowed disciplinary resignation, is "tantamount to disbarment." *The Florida Bar v. Hale*, 762 So.2d 515, 517 (Fla. 2000). Like disbarred lawyers, lawyers whose licenses have been revoked pursuant to disciplinary revocation still remain subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Florida and must meet all requirements for readmission to bar membership. *The Florida Bar v. Ross*, 732 So.2d 1037, 1041 (Fla. 1998); *The Florida Bar v. Hale*, 762 So.2d 515, 517 (Fla. 2000).

