FILED
MAR 16 2020
CLERK SUPREME COURT

In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of Preparation for)
Coronavirus/COVID-19 Impact)
On the Office of Professional Regulation) Order

The Iowa Supreme Court relies upon many volunteer lawyers and members of the public to oversee the regulatory functions of the practice of law. As is the case with many other aspects of the judicial process, coronavirus/COVID-19 has had an impact on the operations of the boards and commissions overseen by the Office of Professional Regulation. In order to better protect the public and aid the legal profession at this time, the following changes to the Division III rules will be in effect until further order of the court:

(1) The six-hour cap on unmoderated CLE set forth in Rule 41.3(3) is hereby lifted.

(2) Meetings of the Board of Law Examiners, Attorney Disciplinary Board, Commission on Continuing Legal Education, Client Security Commission, Lawyers Trust Account Commission, Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, and the Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters, may be held telephonically or via video conferencing.

(3) Complaints against attorneys pursuant to Rule 35.2, claims of the unauthorized practice of law pursuant to Rule 38.5, and claims for reimbursement from the Client Security Commission pursuant to Rules 39.9 and Chapter 40, may be made using an electronic submission form which will be available on the court's website.

(4) Hearings set forth in Chapters 31, 34, 35, 36, 42, 46, and 47, shall be held telephonically or via video conferencing. This includes hearings that are currently scheduled.

(5) All parties to Grievance Commission proceedings shall now participate in the electronic filing option set forth in Rule 36.6. This includes matters that are currently in litigation.

(6) The Client Security Commission is hereby authorized to be appointed as a trustee under Rule 34.17 and Rule 34.18 without need for supreme court confirmation.

(7) Upon termination of a Rule 34.17 or Rule 34.18 trusteeship or upon the request of the Client Security Commission, all remaining attorney files may be ordered immediately destroyed.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2020.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By _____
Susan Christensen, Chief Justice

Copies to:

Iowa Supreme Court
Iowa Court of Appeals
Attorney Disciplinary Board
Grievance Commission
Lawyers Trust Account Commission
Board of Law Examiners
Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters
CLE Commission
Client Security Commission
Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law