

**Rule 6.5. Nonprofit and Court-Annexed Limited Legal Services Programs.**

1        (a) A licensed paralegal practitioner who, under the auspices of a program sponsored by a  
2 nonprofit organization or court, provides short-term limited legal services to a client without  
3 expectation by either the licensed paralegal practitioner or the client that the licensed paralegal  
4 practitioner will provide continuing representation in the matter:

5        (a)(1) is subject to Rule 1.7 and 1.9(a) of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of  
6 Professional Conduct only if the licensed paralegal practitioner knows that the representation of  
7 the client involves a conflict of interest; and

8        (a)(2) is subject to Rule 1.10 of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional  
9 Conduct only if the licensed paralegal practitioner knows that another lawyer or licensed  
10 paralegal practitioner associated with the licensed paralegal practitioner in a law firm is  
11 disqualified by Rule 1.7 or 1.9(a) of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional  
12 Conduct with respect to the matter.

13        (b) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2), Rule 1.10 of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner  
14 Rules of Professional Conduct is inapplicable to a representation governed by this Rule.

15  
16        Comment

17        [1] Legal services organizations, courts and various nonprofit organizations have established  
18 programs through which licensed paralegal practitioners provide short-term limited legal services  
19 such as advice for the completion of legal forms that will assist persons to address their legal  
20 problems without further representation by a licensed paralegal practitioner or lawyer. In these  
21 programs, such as legal-advice hotlines, advice-only clinics or pro se counseling programs, a  
22 client-licensed paralegal practitioner relationship is established, but there is no expectation that  
23 the licensed paralegal practitioner's representation of the client will continue beyond the limited  
24 consultation. Such programs are normally operated under circumstances in which it is not  
25 feasible for a licensed paralegal practitioner to systematically screen for conflicts of interest as is  
26 generally required before undertaking a representation. See, e.g. Rules 1.7, 1.9 and 1.10 of the  
27 Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional Conduct.

28        [2] A licensed paralegal practitioner who provides short-term limited legal services pursuant  
29 to this Rule must secure the client's informed consent to the limited scope of the representation.  
30 See Rule 1.2(c) of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional Conduct. If a short-

31 term limited representation would not be reasonable under the circumstances, the licensed  
32 paralegal practitioner may offer advice to the client but must also advise the client of the need for  
33 further assistance of counsel. Except as provided in this Rule, the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner  
34 Rules of Professional Conduct, including Rule 1.6 and 1.9(c) of the Licensed Paralegal  
35 Practitioner Rules of Professional Conduct, are applicable to the limited representation.

36 [3] Because a licensed paralegal practitioner who is representing a client in the circumstances  
37 addressed by this Rule ordinarily is not able to check systematically for conflicts of interest,  
38 paragraph (a) requires compliance with Rule 1.7 or 1.9(a) of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner  
39 Rules of Professional Conduct only if the licensed paralegal practitioner knows that the  
40 representation presents a conflict of interest for the licensed paralegal practitioner, and with Rule  
41 1.10 of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional Conduct only if the licensed  
42 paralegal practitioner knows that another licensed paralegal practitioner or lawyer in the licensed  
43 paralegal practitioner's firm is disqualified in the matter by Rules 1.7 or 1.9(a) of the Licensed  
44 Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional Conduct.

45 [4] Because the limited nature of the services significantly reduces the risk of conflicts of  
46 interest with other matters being handled by the licensed paralegal practitioner's firm, paragraph  
47 (b) provides that Rule 1.10 of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional Conduct  
48 is inapplicable to a representation governed by this Rule except as provided by paragraph (a)(2).  
49 Paragraph (a)(2) requires the participating licensed paralegal practitioner to comply with Rule  
50 1.10 of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional Conduct when the licensed  
51 paralegal practitioner knows that the licensed paralegal practitioner's firm is disqualified by  
52 Rules 1.7 or 1.9(a) of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional Conduct. By  
53 virtue of paragraph (b), however, a licensed paralegal practitioner's participation in a short-term  
54 limited legal services program will not preclude the licensed paralegal practitioner's firm from  
55 undertaking or continuing the representation of a client with interests adverse to a client being  
56 represented under the program's auspices. Nor will the personal disqualification of a licensed  
57 paralegal practitioner participating in the program be imputed to other licensed paralegal  
58 practitioners participating in the program.

59 [5] If, after commencing a short-term limited representation in accordance with this Rule, a  
60 licensed paralegal practitioner undertakes to represent the client in the matter on an ongoing

61 basis, Rules 1.7, 1.9(a) and 1.10 of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Rules of Professional  
62 Conduct become applicable.

Effective November 1, 2018