

Rule 1.13. Organization as a client.

(a) A licensed paralegal practitioner employed or retained by an organization represents the organization acting through its duly authorized constituents.

(b) If a licensed paralegal practitioner for an organization knows that an officer, employee or other person associated with the organization is engaged in action, intends to act or refuses to act in a matter related to the representation that is a violation of a legal obligation to the organization, or a violation of law that reasonably might be imputed to the organization, and that is likely to result in substantial injury to the organization, then the licensed paralegal practitioner shall proceed as is reasonably necessary in the best interest of the organization. Unless the licensed paralegal practitioner reasonably believes that it is not necessary in the best interest of the organization to do so, the licensed paralegal practitioner shall refer the matter to higher authority in the organization, including, if warranted by the circumstances, to the highest authority that can act on behalf of the organization as determined by applicable law.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (d), if

(c)(1) despite the licensed paralegal practitioner's efforts in accordance with paragraph (b), the highest authority that can act on behalf of the organization insists upon or fails to address in a timely and appropriate manner an action, or a refusal to act, that is clearly a violation of law, and

(c)(2) the licensed paralegal practitioner reasonably believes that the violation is reasonably certain to result in substantial injury to the organization, then the licensed paralegal practitioner may reveal information relating to the representation whether or not Rule 1.6 permits such disclosure, but only if and to the extent the licensed paralegal practitioner reasonably believes necessary to prevent substantial injury to the organization.

(d) Reserved.

(e) A licensed paralegal practitioner who has been discharged and reasonably believes the discharge was because of the licensed paralegal practitioner's actions taken pursuant to paragraphs (b) or (c), or who withdraws under circumstances that require or permit the licensed paralegal practitioner to take action under either of those paragraphs, shall proceed as the licensed paralegal practitioner reasonably believes necessary to ensure that the organization's highest authority is informed of the licensed paralegal practitioner's discharge or withdrawal.

(f) In dealing with an organization's directors, officers, employees, members, shareholders or other constituents, a licensed paralegal practitioner shall explain the identity of the client when the licensed paralegal practitioner knows or reasonably should know that the organization's interests are adverse to those of the constituents with whom the licensed paralegal practitioner is dealing.

(g) A licensed paralegal practitioner representing an organization may also represent any of its directors, officers, employees, members, shareholders or other constituents, subject to the provisions of Rule 1.7. If the organization's consent to the dual representation is required by Rule 1.7, the consent shall be given by an appropriate official of the organization other than the individual who is to be represented, or by the shareholders.

(h) Reserved.

Effective November 1, 2018