

Rule 15-519. Licensed Paralegal Practitioners convicted of a crime.

1 (a) Transmittal of judgment of conviction. The court in which a licensed paralegal
2 practitioner is convicted of any felony or any misdemeanor which reflects adversely on the
3 licensed paralegal practitioner's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a licensed paralegal
4 practitioner shall, within 30 days after the conviction, transmit a certified copy of the judgment
5 of conviction to OPC counsel.

6 (b) Motion for interim suspension. Upon being advised that a licensed paralegal practitioner
7 has been convicted of a crime which reflects adversely on the licensed paralegal practitioner's
8 honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a licensed paralegal practitioner, OPC counsel shall
9 determine whether the crime warrants interim suspension. Upon a determination that the crime
10 warrants interim suspension, OPC counsel shall file a formal complaint, accompanied by the
11 certified copy of the judgment of conviction, and concurrently file a motion for immediate
12 interim suspension. An action is commenced under this rule when both the petition for interim
13 suspension and the formal complaint are filed. The respondent may assert any jurisdictional
14 deficiency which establishes that the interim suspension may not properly be ordered, such as
15 that the crime does not reflect adversely on the respondent's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as
16 a licensed paralegal practitioner, or that the respondent is not the individual convicted. The
17 respondent is not entitled to an evidentiary hearing but may request an informal hearing. If an
18 order for interim suspension is not obtained, the formal complaint shall be dismissed and OPC
19 counsel shall process the matter as it does any other information coming to the attention of the
20 OPC.

21 (c) Imposition. The district court shall place a respondent on interim suspension upon proof
22 that the respondent has been convicted of a crime which reflects adversely on the respondent's
23 honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a licensed paralegal practitioner regardless of the pendency
24 of any appeal.

25 (d) Dissolution of interim suspension. Interim suspension may be dissolved as provided in
26 Rule 15-518(d).

27 (e) Conviction as conclusive evidence. Except as provided in paragraph (b), a certified copy
28 of a judgment of conviction constitutes conclusive evidence that the respondent committed the
29 crime.

30 (f) Automatic reinstatement from interim suspension upon reversal of conviction. If a
31 respondent suspended solely under the provisions of paragraph (c) demonstrates that the
32 underlying conviction has been reversed or vacated, the order for interim suspension shall be
33 vacated and the respondent placed on active status. The vacating of the interim suspension shall
34 not automatically terminate any disciplinary proceeding then pending against the respondent, the
35 disposition of which shall be determined on the basis of the available evidence other than
36 conviction.

37 (g) Notice to clients and other of interim suspension. An interim suspension under this rule
38 shall constitute a suspension of the respondent for the purpose of Rule 15-526.

Effective November 1, 2018