

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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