

1 **Rule 6.5: Short-term Limited Legal Services Nonprofit & Court-Annexed Limited Legal**  
 2 **Services Programs**

3 (a) A lawyer who provides short-term limited legal services to a client through a one-time consultation  
 4 or a representation provided through a program sponsored by a nonprofit organization, a government  
 5 agency, a law school, or a court, without expectation by either the lawyer or the client that the lawyer will  
 6 provide continuing representation in the matter, under the auspices of a program sponsored by a nonprofit  
 7 organization or court, provides short-term limited legal services to a client without expectation by either the  
 8 lawyer or the client that the lawyer will provide continuing representation in the matter:

9 (1) is subject to Rules 1.7 and 1.9(a) only if the lawyer knows that the representation of the client  
 10 involves a conflict of interest; and

11 (2) is subject to Rule 1.10 only if the lawyer knows that another lawyer associated with the lawyer  
 12 in a law firm is disqualified by Rule 1.7 or 1.9(a) with respect to the matter.

13 (b) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2), Rule 1.10 is inapplicable to a representation governed by  
 14 this Rule.

15 (c) Notwithstanding the above, other lawyers in a firm are not disqualified from representing clients  
 16 whose interests are adverse to a client who received short-term limited legal services from a lawyer in the  
 17 firm if

18 (c)(1) the lawyer who provided the services is timely screened from the adverse clients' matters, and

19 (c)(2) receives no fees from those matters.

20 Comments

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

30 [2] ~~A lawyer who provides short-term limited legal services pursuant to this Rule must secure the~~  
 31 ~~client's informed consent to the limited scope of the representation. See Rule 1.2(c).~~ If a short-term limited  
 32 representation would not be reasonable under the circumstances, the lawyer may offer advice to the  
 33 client but must also advise the client of the need for further assistance of counsel. Except as provided in  
 34 this Rule, the Rules of Professional Conduct, including Rules 1.6 and 1.9(c), are applicable to the limited  
 35 representation.

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

41 [4] Because the limited nature of the services significantly reduces the risk of conflicts of interest with  
42 other matters being handled by the lawyer's firm, paragraph (b) provides that Rule 1.10 is inapplicable to  
43 a representation governed by this Rule except as provided by paragraph (a)(2). Paragraph (a)(2) requires  
44 the participating lawyer to comply with Rule 1.10 when the lawyer knows that the lawyer's firm is  
45 disqualified by Rules 1.7 or 1.9(a). By virtue of paragraph (b), however, a lawyer's participation in a short-  
46 term limited legal services program will not preclude the lawyer's firm from undertaking or continuing the  
47 representation of a client with interests adverse to a client being represented under the program's  
48 auspices. Nor will the personal disqualification of a lawyer participating in the program be imputed to  
49 other lawyers participating in the program.

50 [5] If, after commencing a short-term limited representation in accordance with this Rule, a lawyer  
51 undertakes to represent the client in the matter on an ongoing basis, Rules 1.7, 1.9(a) and 1.10 become  
52 applicable.

53 [65a] This Rule differs from ABA Model Rule 6.5 to the extent that it changes the title, changes  
54 paragraph (a), and adds new paragraph (c).

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