

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SUPREME COURT
RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR OF OHIO**

Comments Requested: The Supreme Court of Ohio will accept public comments until January 18, 2017, on the following proposed amendments to the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio.

Comments on the proposed amendments should be submitted in writing to: John VanNorman, Senior Policy and Research Counsel, Supreme Court of Ohio, 65 South Front Street, 7th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431, or john.vannorman@sc.ohio.gov not later than January 18, 2017. Please include your full name and mailing address in any comments submitted by e-mail.

Key to Proposed Amendment:

1. Existing language appears in regular type. Example: text
2. Existing language to be deleted appears in strikethrough. Example: ~~text~~
3. New language to be added appears in underline. Example: text

1 **SUPREME COURT RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR OF OHIO**

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3 **RULE I. ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW**

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5 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

6
7 **Section 16. Military Spouse Attorneys.**

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9 (A) A person not admitted to the practice of law in Ohio may become certified to
10 practice law and provide legal services if that person satisfies all of the following:

11
12 (1) Have been admitted to practice law in another U.S. state, territory, or the District
13 of Columbia;

14
15 (2) Hold a J.D. or LL.B. degree from a law school approved by the Council of the
16 Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association at
17 the time the applicant matriculated or graduated;

18
19 (3) Establish that the applicant is currently a member in good standing in all
20 jurisdictions where admitted;

21
22 (4) Establish that the applicant is not currently subject to attorney discipline or the
23 subject of a pending disciplinary matter in any jurisdiction;

24
25 (5) Establish that the applicant has not taken and failed the Ohio bar examination;

26
27 (6) Establish that the applicant possesses the character and fitness to practice law in
28 this jurisdiction;

29
30 (7) Demonstrate presence in this jurisdiction as a spouse of a member of the United
31 States Uniformed Services;

32
33 (8) Certify that the applicant has read and is familiar with the Ohio Rules of
34 Professional Conduct;

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36 (9) Pay the prescribed application fee;

37
38 (10) Within sixty days of being licensed to practice law, complete a course on Ohio law,
39 the content and method of delivery of which shall be approved by the Office of Bar
40 Admissions of the Supreme Court;

41
42 (11) Comply with all other ethical, legal, and continuing legal education obligations
43 generally applicable to attorneys licensed in this jurisdiction.

44

45 (B) An applicant for certification under Section 16 of this rule shall file with the Office
46 of Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court an application. The application shall be on a form
47 furnished by the Office of Bar Admissions and shall include all of the following:
48

49 (1) A copy of the United States Military Orders of the spouse of the applicant,
50 establishing that the applicant is in Ohio due to military orders;
51

52 (2) A certificate from the applicant's law school certifying that the applicant has
53 received a law degree;
54

55 (3) A certificate of admission as an attorney at law from another state, the District of
56 Columbia, or a territory of the United States;
57

58 (4) A certificate of good standing from each jurisdiction in which the applicant is
59 admitted to practice law;
60

61 (5) An affidavit that the applicant has read, is familiar with, and agrees to be bound by
62 the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct and to submit to the jurisdiction of the Supreme
63 Court for disciplinary purposes pursuant to Gov. Bar R. V;
64

65 (6) A questionnaire, in duplicate, for use by the National Conference of Bar Examiners
66 and the Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness in conducting a character
67 investigation of the applicant;
68

69 (7) A fee in the amount charged by the National Conference of Bar Examiners for its
70 report.
71

72 (C) If after such investigation as the Office of Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court
73 may deem appropriate, it concludes that the applicant possesses the qualifications required of all
74 other applicants for admission to practice law in this jurisdiction, the applicant shall be licensed to
75 practice law and enrolled as a member of the bar of this jurisdiction. The Office of Bar Admissions
76 of the Supreme Court shall promptly act upon any application filed under this rule.
77

78 (D) Except as provided in Section 16(E)(1) of this rule, attorneys licensed under Section
79 16 of this rule shall be entitled to all privileges, rights, and benefits and subject to all duties,
80 obligations, and responsibilities of active members of bar of this jurisdiction, and shall be subject
81 to the jurisdiction of the Office of Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court and agencies of this
82 jurisdiction with respect to the laws and rules of this jurisdiction governing the conduct and
83 discipline of attorneys, to the same extent as members of the bar of this jurisdiction.
84

85 (E)(1) The license and authorization to perform legal services under Section 16 of this rule
86 shall be limited by the earliest of the following events:
87

88 (a) The service member is no longer a member of the United States Uniformed
89 Services;
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91 (b) The military spouse attorney is no longer married to the service member;

92
93 (c) A change in the service member's military orders reflecting a permanent change of
94 station to a military installation other than Ohio, except that if the service member has been
95 assigned to an unaccompanied or remote assignment with no dependents authorized, the military
96 spouse attorney may continue to practice pursuant to the provisions of this rule until the service
97 member is assigned to a location with dependents authorized;

98
99 (d) The lawyer is admitted to the general practice of law under any other rule of the
100 Supreme Court;

101
102 (e) The attorney is suspended or disbarred in any jurisdiction of the United States, or
103 by any federal court or agency, or by any foreign nation before which the attorney has been
104 admitted to practice.

105
106 (2) In the event that any of the events listed in Section 16(E)(1) occur, the attorney
107 shall promptly notify the Office of Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court of the event in writing
108 within sixty days of the date upon which the event occurs and upon such notification, the license
109 and authorization to perform services under this rule shall be terminated.