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Midterm: Chapter 20; The Rules Regulating the Florida Bar

A Florida registered paralegal is someone who fulfills the credits for the registration of paralegal as proven in chapter 20 rule, that regulates the Florida Bar Association. A paralegal is a person that acts under the supervision of an attorney or a member of the Florida Bar Association.

The goal of the Florida Registered Paralegal Program, the Florida Bar outlines that it may be approved by its association or other with substantial compliance with guidelines of ABA. On March 1, 2008, The Florida Registered Paralegal Program was introduced, being a member was voluntary.

Chapter 20 created the program, which provided the voluntary registration of legal assistants who take on specific minimum standards of education and work experience, and who agree to follow an established code of ethics in exchange for the associate oneself as a registered paralegal in Florida.

Chapter 20, Florida Registered Paralegal Program of the rules governing the Florida Bar, has the aim of constructing guidelines that must be met for the use of the title of a paralegal, eligibility for enrollment of paralegal and the renewal or revocation of registry. There are also the rules that govern the Code of Ethics and the duties of the paralegal; everything that supports the committees of the paralegal.

Rule 20 –3 establishes the eligibility of who can become a registered paralegal in the state of Florida. They must meet both educational and work experience requirements such as a

degree in Paralegal Studies from an accredited legal program and 2-3 years of paralegal work experience, whether you earn your associate or bachelor's degree.

Regarding certification requirements, these must have been successful completion of the paralegal advanced competency exam (PACE) and good reputation with the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) or have completed the certified paralegal assistant (CLA) and good reputation with the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA),

Rule 20-5 Florida Registered Paralegal Program of the rules regulating the bar sets up ineligibility or renewal of paralegal registration.

This rule states that those who are not eligible to renew or register are those who are disqualified by having waived disciplinary compliance with the legal practice of being a paralegal; those who are serving a sentence for a serious crime in any state, been accused of being engaged in illegal practice; or whose registration had been revoked for disciplinary reasons.

Rule 20-6 Florida Registered Paralegal Program of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar states that the paralegal must complete a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education every three years, of the thirty hours, five of them must be legal ethics or professionalism.

The registered Florida paralegal must comply with the Code of Ethics and Accountability stated in subchapter 20 : to provide services directly to the public , accept cases , establish legal fees , give legal advice or opinions , in other words , performing tasks that a lawyer is only authorized to do and not do to avoid unauthorized practice of la without a license. Unauthorized practice of law or failure to follow this code may result in revocation of registry.

Any Paralegal that chooses to practice in the state of Florida must follow Chapter 20 of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar because it proves all criteria that must be fulfilled by a paralegal in the state of Florida.

Works Cited

2024\_08 (FEB) Chapter 20 RRTFB 2-15-2024 (floridabar.org)