

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

The following amendments to the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio (Gov. Bar R. I, Section 13) were adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The history of these amendments is as follows:

May 8, 2022	Published for public comment
November 15, 2022	Final adoption by conference
January 17, 2023	Effective date of amendments

# SUPREME COURT RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR OF OHIO

## RULE I. ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW

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

### Section 13. Character Investigation by Admissions Committees.

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

(D)(1) The applicant has the burden to prove by clear and convincing evidence that the applicant possesses the requisite character, fitness, and moral qualifications for admission to the practice of law. An applicant's failure to provide requested information, including information regarding expungements and juvenile court proceedings, or otherwise to cooperate in proceedings before the admissions committee may be grounds for a recommendation of disapproval.

(2) The admissions committee shall determine an applicant's character, fitness, and moral qualifications in accordance with all of the following:

- (a) The provisions of this rule;
- (b) The applicable decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States;
- (c) The applicable decisions of the Supreme Court of Ohio;

(d) Any standards of conduct promulgated by the Board and approved by the Court under Section 12(B)(2)(b) of this rule.

(3) An applicant may be approved for admission if the applicant's record of conduct justifies the trust of clients, adversaries, courts, and others with respect to the professional duties owed to them and demonstrates that the applicant satisfies the essential eligibility requirements for the practice of law as defined by the Board. A record manifesting a significant deficiency in the honesty, trustworthiness, diligence, or reliability of an applicant may constitute a basis for disapproval of the applicant. Factors to be considered carefully by the admissions committee before making a recommendation about an applicant's character, fitness, and moral qualifications shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- (a) Commission or conviction of a crime, subject to division (D)(5) of this section;
- (b) Evidence of an existing and untreated chemical (drug or alcohol) dependency;
- (c) Commission of an act constituting the unauthorized practice of law;
- (d) Violation of the honor code of the applicant's law school or any other academic misconduct;

~~(e) Evidence of mental or psychological disorder that in any way affects or, if untreated, could affect the applicant's ability to practice law in a competent and professional manner;~~

(f) A pattern of disregard of the laws of this state, another state, or the United States;

~~(g)~~(f) Failure to provide complete and accurate information concerning the applicant's past;

~~(h)~~(g) False statements, including omissions;

~~(i)~~(h) Acts involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;

~~(j)~~(i) Abuse of legal process;

~~(k)~~(j) Neglect of financial responsibilities;

~~(l)~~(k) Neglect of professional obligations;

~~(m)~~(l) Violation of an order of a court;

~~(n)~~(m) Denial of admission to the bar in another jurisdiction on character and fitness grounds;

~~(o)~~(n) Disciplinary action by a lawyer disciplinary agency or other professional disciplinary agency of any jurisdiction.

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

(6) In determining an applicant's character, fitness, and moral qualifications for the practice of law, the admissions committee shall not consider factors that do not directly bear a reasonable relationship to the practice of law, including but not limited to the following impermissible factors:

(a) Age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, race, color, national origin, or religion of the applicant;

(b) Disability of the applicant, provided that the applicant, though disabled, is able to satisfy the essential eligibility requirements for the practice of law.

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

[Effective: February 28, 1972; amended effective October 30, 1972; November 27, 1972; March 19, 1973; November 12, 1973; March 1, 1974; July 8, 1974; April 26, 1976; January 24, 1977; March 9, 1977; August 1, 1977; January 1, 1982; March 9, 1983; July 1, 1983; May 7, 1984; May

28, 1984; December 31, 1984; April 1, 1987; May 6, 1987; January 1, 1989; July 1, 1989; January 1, 1991; February 1, 1991; October 1, 1991; February 1, 1992; May 1, 1992; July 1, 1992; August 1, 1992; January 1, 1993; September 15, 1993; January 1, 1995; May 1, 1997; August 3, 1998; June 1, 2000; October 1, 2000; February 1, 2003; October 1, 2003; February 1, 2007; May 1, 2007; October 1, 2007; January 1, 2008; February 1, 2009; August 1, 2010; January 1, 2013; January 1, 2014; July 1, 2014; January 1, 2015; January 1, 2017; July 1, 2017; September 2, 2019; June 1, 2020; March 2, 2021; September 1, 2021; January 17, 2023.]

**RULE XX. TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATES**

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

**Section 2. Effective Dates.**

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

**(Insert division letter)** The amendments to Gov. Bar R. I, Section 13, adopted by the Supreme Court on November 15, 2022, shall take effect on January 17, 2023.