

Rule 15-703. Qualifications for Licensure as a Licensed Paralegal Practitioner.

(a) Requirements of Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Applicants. The burden of proof is on the Applicant to establish by clear and convincing evidence that she or he:

(a)(1) has paid the prescribed application fees;

(a)(2) has either been granted a Limited Time Waiver under Rule 15-705 or has timely filed the required Complete Application for a Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Applicant in accordance with Rule 15-707;

(a)(3) is at least 21 years old;

(a)(4) has graduated with either:

(a)(4)(A) a First Professional Degree in law from an Approved Law School; or,

(a)(4)(B) an Associate Degree in paralegal studies from an Accredited School or Accredited Program; or

(a)(4)(C) a Bachelor's Degree in paralegal studies from an Accredited School or Accredited Program; or

(a)(4)(D) a Bachelor's Degree in any field from an Accredited School, plus a Paralegal Certificate or 15 credit hours of paralegal studies from an Accredited Program;

(a)(5) if the applicant does not have a First Professional Degree from an Approved Law School, the applicant must have 1500 hours of Substantive Law-Related Experience within the last 3 years, including 500 hours of Substantive Law-Related Experience in temporary separation, divorce, parentage, cohabitant abuse, civil stalking, custody and support, and name change if the Applicant is to be licensed in that area, or 100 hours of Substantive Law-Related Experience in forcible entry and detainer or debt collection if the Applicant is to be licensed in those areas.

(a)(6) has successfully passed the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Ethics Examination;

(a)(7) has successfully passed the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Examination(s) for the practice area(s) in which the Applicant seeks licensure;

(a)(8) is of good moral character and satisfies the requirements of Rule 15-708;

(a)(9) has a proven record of ethical, civil and professional behavior; and

(a)(10) complies with the provisions of Rule 15-716 concerning licensing and enrollment fees.

(b) If the Applicant has not graduated with a First Professional Degree in law from an approved law school, the Applicant must:

(b)(1) have taken a specialized course of instruction approved by the Board in professional ethics for Licensed Paralegal Practitioners;

(b)(2) have taken a specialized course of instruction approved by the Board in each specialty area in which the Applicant seeks to be licensed; and

(b)(3) have obtained either the Certified Paralegal (CP or CLA) credential from the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA); the Professional Paralegal (PP) credential from the National Association of Legal Professionals (NALS); or the Registered Paralegal (RP) credential from the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA).

(c) An individual who has been disbarred or suspended in any jurisdiction may not apply for licensure as a Paralegal Practitioner.

