

North Carolina State Bar Board of Continuing Legal Education

CLE Rules Town Hall
November 14, 2023

What We'll Cover

1. Summary of CLE Rules Changes
2. 2023 Requirements
3. 2024 Temporary Requirements

CLE Rules Changes


1	ANNUAL ATTENDANCE FEE <p>The \$3.50/hr attendance fee is eliminated. Lawyers will now pay a \$25 annual CLE attendance fee during the membership renewal process.</p>	$\$3.50 \times 12 =$ \$42 \$25
2	2-YEAR REPORTING PERIOD... <p>Over 2 years, lawyers must complete 24 hours of CLE, including: 4 Ethics Hours, 1 Technology Training Hour, and 1 Professional Well-Being Hour (formerly Mental Health/Substance Abuse).</p>	2 years 24 Hours
3	...EXCEPT FOR 2024 <p>To create a stagger where the reporting period ends for half of lawyers each year, lawyers with an odd year of admittance (e.g., 2023) will have a one-time, 1yr/12hr requirement. Even year lawyers will go directly to 2yrs/24hrs.</p>	
4	NO ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT <p>Beginning at the end of the 2024 reporting period, lawyers will not be required to file an annual report. No more late fees for failing to click a few buttons!</p>	
5	CARRY OVER UP TO 12 HOURS <p>Lawyers may carryover up to 12 hours of CLE from one reporting period to the next. Hours will carryover as total hours only. <u>Ethics, Technology, and PWB hours must be taken every reporting period.</u></p>	

Effective
March 1,
2024


CLE Rules Changes

- 6 12-MONTH CLE YEAR (NO GRACE PERIOD)**


The 12-month CLE year begins March 1. Reporting periods end at the end of February. Hours must be completed by the end of the lawyer's reporting period in order to avoid a late fee.


- 7 STREAMLINED ENFORCEMENT**


Lawyers who fail to complete their hours requirements will be subject to non-compliance fees and a more streamlined suspension process.


- 8 EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED AT RENEWAL**


Lawyers eligible for an exemption from CLE requirements will claim exemptions during the membership renewal process and will not be charged the annual attendance fee.


- 9 ONLINE COURSE APPLICATION & FEE**

Sponsors of CLE programs will apply online and pay a course application fee (\$50 for live programs). Programs offered for free will not be charged. The full fee schedule will be released in October 2023.


- 10 MORE INFORMATION ON THE WAY**

Additional information for lawyers and sponsors will be provided throughout the remainder of 2023.



Effective
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More changes to the CLE Rules

**On-Demand
Courses approved
for 3 years**

**Changes to
Substance Abuse/
Mental Health
Definition**

**No change to
requirements for
Certified Specialists**

**Easily find Free
Courses**

**On-Demand
Program attendance
must be submitted
by sponsors**

**New admittees must
complete the PNA
program within first
reporting period**

B. Fees for Members

Annual CLE Attendance Fee (For all non-exempt lawyers)	\$25	Paid with annual membership renewal
Late Annual CLE Attendance Fee	\$25	If Annual CLE Attendance Fee not paid by June 30
Late Compliance Fee (Hours not completed by last day of February)	\$150	Attorney has 60 days to comply and pay Late Compliance Fee
Non-Compliance Fee (Hours not completed and late fee not paid by May 1, assessed when Suspension notice issued)	\$250	Suspension Notice Issued
Reinstatement Fee (If suspended)	\$250	If not completed or good cause shown within 45 days, suspension is effective (goes into wind-down).
Program Application/Attendance Fee (If submitted by lawyer)	\$25	Not Permitted until after program date. Not permitted for On-Demand programs.

A. Fees for Sponsors

Program Application Fee	\$50
On-Demand Annual Renewal Fee	\$20 (Paid annually, course approved for 3 years)
On-Demand Program Recertification Fee	\$50 (Paid annually after initial 3-year approval)
Programs offered for free (all types)	\$0
Expedited Program Application (0-40 days prior to program)	Application Fee + \$50
Repeat Program Application Fee (within the same CLE year)	\$25
Attendance Reporting Fee	\$0 (If reported within 40 days following program and each completed on-demand program)
Late Attendance Reporting Fee	\$25 (No new programs will be approved until report is submitted and late fee is paid)

2023 Requirements - Unchanged

- **CLE requirements remain unchanged for 2023**
- 2023 Annual Report must be filed by the end of February 2024
 - This will be the last Annual Report
 - 2024 CLE Attendance Fee (\$25) will be assessed in the Annual Report Process
- Carry-over hours can still be earned for 2024

2024 Temporary Requirements

- In 2024, lawyers admitted in an **ODD Year (e.g., 2015, 2017, 2023)** will have a one-time, one-year, 12 hour requirement
 - 12 Total Hours
 - 2 Ethics Hours
 - **1 Professional Well-Being** (formerly Mental Health/Substance Abuse) Hour
 - 1 Technology Training Hour
 - Carry-over hours from 2023 will apply to Total Hours, but will not satisfy “specialty” credit requirements
- The two-year reporting period will begin with 2025 CLE Year

2024 Temporary Requirements

- In 2024, lawyers admitted in an **EVEN Year (e.g., 1998, 2012, 2024)** will begin the new two-year, 24-hour requirement
 - 24 Total Hours
 - 4 Ethics Hours
 - 1 Professional Well-Being (formerly Mental Health/Substance Abuse) Hour
 - 1 Technology Training Hour
 - Carry-over hours from 2023 will apply to Total Hours, but will not satisfy “specialty” credit requirements

Spread the Word on Rules Changes

- Additional information will be shared via email and posted on the website and social media
- Staff is available to present to district bars and other bar organizations
- Today's session will remain on the State Bar's YouTube channel

Questions?

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