

Appendix B – Clean Version of Proposed Amendments to Rule 31

Rule 31. Regulation of the Practice of Law

* * *

- (b) Authority to Practice.** Except as hereinafter provided in section (d), no person shall practice law in this state or represent in any way that he or she may practice law in this state unless the person is an active member of the state bar.
- (c) Restrictions on Disbarred Attorneys' and Members' Right to Practice.** No member who is currently suspended or on disability inactive status and no former member who has been disbarred shall practice law in this state or represent in any way that he or she may practice law in this state.
- (d) Exemptions.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section (b), but subject to the limitations of section (c) unless otherwise stated:
1. Nothing in these rules shall affect the rights granted in the Arizona or United States Constitutions.
 2. Nothing in these rules shall prohibit an officer or employee of a governmental entity from performing the duties of his or her office or carrying out the regular course of business of the governmental entity.
 3. Nothing in these rules shall prohibit the supreme court, court of appeals, superior courts, or limited jurisdiction courts in this state from creating and distributing form documents for use in Arizona courts.
 4. Nothing in this rule shall affect the ability of nonlawyer assistants to act under the supervision of a lawyer in compliance with ER 5.3 of the rules of professional conduct. This exemption is not subject to section (c).
 5. Nothing in these rules shall prohibit the preparation of documents incidental to a regular course of business when the documents are for the use of the business and not made available to third parties.
 6. Nothing in these rules shall prohibit a certified legal document preparer from performing services in compliance with Arizona Code of Judicial Administration, Part 7, Chapter 2, Section 7-208. This exemption is not subject to paragraph (c) of this rule, as long as the disbarred attorney or member has been certified as provided in § 7-208 of the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration.
 7. Nothing in these rules shall prohibit a mediator as defined in these rules from preparing a written mediation agreement or filing such agreement with the appropriate court, provided that:

Appendix B – Clean Version of Proposed Amendments to Rule 31

- (A) the mediator is employed, appointed or referred by a court or government entity and is serving as a mediator at the direction of the court or government entity; or
- (B) the mediator is participating without compensation in a non-profit mediation program, a community-based organization, or a professional association.

In all other cases, a mediator who is not an active member of the state bar and who prepares or provides legal documents for the parties without the supervision of an attorney must be certified as a legal document preparer in compliance with the Arizona Code of judicial Administration, Part 7, Chapter 2, Section 7-208.

8. Nothing in these rules shall affect the ability of lawyers licensed in another jurisdiction to engage in conduct that is permitted under ER 5.5 of the rules of professional conduct.
9. A person who is not an active member of the state bar may represent any entity that is not an issuing public corporation, as that term is defined in A.R.S. § 10-2701, before any court in this state and in any proceeding, including but not limited to any quasi-judicial hearing, any administrative, agency, hearing officer, or board hearing, rehearing, or appeal, any small claims procedure or proceeding, and in any fee arbitration proceeding. For purposes of this rule, “any entity that is not an issuing public corporation” includes, but is not limited to, closely held corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, non-profit corporations, public service corporations and interim operators appointed by the Arizona Corporation Commission, management companies, and unincorporated associations. “Any entity that is not an issuing public corporation” does not include an individual, and the entity must specifically authorize such person to represent it in the particular matter; such representation must not be the person’s primary duty to the entity, but secondary or incidental to other duties relating to the management or operation of the entity; and the person must not receive separate or additional compensation (other than reimbursement for costs) for such representation. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, any presiding officer in any proceeding may require counsel in lieu of lay representation whenever it determines that lay representation is interfering with the orderly progress of the proceeding, imposing undue burdens on the other parties, or causing harm to the parties represented. Any presiding officer may assess an appropriate sanction

Appendix B – Clean Version of Proposed Amendments to Rule 31

against any party or attorney who has engaged in unreasonable, groundless, abusive or obstructionist conduct.

- 10.** In any proceeding before the Department of Economic Security or Department of Child Safety, including a hearing officer, an Appeal Tribunal or the Appeals Board, an individual (either claimant or opposing party) may be represented by a duly authorized agent who is not charging a fee for the representation; and a duly authorized agent who is charging a fee may represent any party, providing that an attorney authorized to practice law in the State of Arizona shall be responsible for and supervise such agent.
- 11.** An employee may designate a representative, not necessarily an attorney, before any board hearing or any quasi-judicial hearing dealing with personnel matters, providing that no fee may be charged for any services rendered in connection with such hearing by any such designated representative not an attorney admitted to practice.
- 12.** In any administrative appeal proceeding of the Department of Health Services, for behavioral health services, pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-3413 (effective July 1, 1995), an individual may be represented by a duly authorized agent who is not charging a fee for the representation.
- 13.** In any administrative appeal proceeding relating to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, an individual may be represented by a duly authorized agent who is not charging a fee for the representation.
- 14.** In any administrative matter before the Arizona Department of Revenue, the Office of Administrative Hearings relating to the Arizona Department of Revenue, a state or county board of equalization, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Arizona Department of Economic Security, the Department of Child Safety, the Arizona Corporation Commission, or any county, city, or town taxing or appeals official, an individual may be represented by (1) a certified public accountant, (2) a federally authorized tax practitioner, as that term is defined in A.R.S. § 42-2069(D)(1), or (3) in matters in which the dispute, including tax, interest and penalties, is less than \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars), any duly appointed representative.
- 15.** In any administrative proceeding pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1415(f) or (k) regarding any matter relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of a free appropriate public education for a child with a disability or suspected disability, a party may be represented by an individual with special knowledge or training with respect to the problems of children with disabilities as determined by the administrative law judge, and who is not charging the party a fee for the representation. The hearing

Appendix B – Clean Version of Proposed Amendments to Rule 31

officer shall have discretion to remove the individual, if continued representation impairs the administrative process or causes harm to the parties represented.

- 16.** In any landlord/tenant dispute before the Arizona Department of Fire, Building and Life Safety, an individual may be represented by a duly authorized agent who is not charging a fee for the representation, other than reimbursement for actual costs.
- 17.** A person who is not an active member of the state bar may represent an individual in small claims procedures in the Arizona Tax Court, as provided in Title 12, Chapter 1, Article 4 of the Arizona Revised Statutes.
- 18.** If the amount in any single dispute before the State Board of Tax Appeals is less than twenty-five thousand dollars, an individual may be represented in that dispute before the board by a certified public accountant or by a federally authorized tax practitioner, as that term is defined in A.R.S. § 42-2069(D)(1).
- 19.** Nothing in these rules shall limit a certified public accountant or other federally authorized tax practitioner, as that term is defined in A.R.S. § 42-2069(D)(1), from practicing before the Internal Revenue Service or other federal agencies where so authorized.
- 20.** Nothing in these rules shall prohibit the rendering of individual and corporate financial and tax advice to clients or the preparation of tax-related documents for filing with governmental agencies by a certified public accountant or other federally authorized tax practitioner as that term is defined in A.R.S. § 42-2069(D)(1).
- 21.** Nothing in these rules shall prohibit the preparation of tax returns.
- 22.** Nothing in these rules shall prohibit a property tax agent, as that term is defined in A.R.S. § 32-3651, who is registered with the Arizona State Board of Appraisal pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3642, from practicing as authorized pursuant to A.R.S. § 42-16001.
- 23.** A person licensed as a fiduciary pursuant to A.R.S. § 14-5651 may perform services in compliance with Arizona code of judicial administration, Part 7, Chapter 2, Section 7-202. Notwithstanding the foregoing provision, the court may suspend the fiduciary's authority to act without an attorney whenever it determines that lay representation is interfering with the orderly progress of the proceedings or imposing undue burdens on other parties.