

MEMBERSHIP RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

A lawyer submitting an application for membership in the Pennsylvania Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service must meet the following requirements and agree to abide by the following rules:

1. Membership is limited to individual attorneys who are current members of the PBA. Law firm listings are not permitted; however, an individual lawyer may include the name of his/her firm as part of the office address.
2. The participating attorney must maintain an office in a county served by the PBA Lawyer Referral Service (LRS.) The attorney must be physically available for consultations in that office.
3. The participating attorney must certify that he/ she is engaged in active legal practice in all areas indicated on the application form.
4. The participating attorney cannot be the subject of current formal disciplinary action.
5. The participating attorney agrees to grant Referral Service clients an initial consultation of up to one half-hour for a fee of \$30; \$15 of that fee shall be returned to the PBA Lawyer Referral Service. If it is the policy of the attorney to waive initial consultation fees, he/ she is required to collect the \$15 referral fee to be returned to the PBA.
6. The participating attorney agrees to pay a 15 percent referral fee to the Pennsylvania Bar Association on all fees and other recoveries resulting in fees over \$300 including but not limited to personal injury, workers compensation, social security and collections. The attorney agrees to remit the 15 percent referral fee to the Pennsylvania Bar Association within 60 days of receiving payment of fees and/or recoveries. The attorney agrees not to increase their standard rate for legal services provided to the referred client to cover any costs associated with their participation in the Lawyer Referral Service.
7. The Online LRS will electronically send the participating attorney an Attorney Referral Notification. The Attorney Referral Notification. Will provide the details of the referral and a link to a form which is to be completed and returned to the PBA LRS whether or not the client keeps the appointment. If the client meets with the attorney, a \$15 payment shall be returned to the PBA LRS per Rule 5. Payment can be made through the LRS online platform.
8. Referred clients will contact the participating attorney directly and identify themselves as having been referred by the PBA LRS. The participating attorney agrees to accept all initial interviews except in areas of practice not handled by the member or where a conflict of interest is apparent. Beyond the initial consultation, the lawyer has no obligation to represent the client.
9. The fee to participate in the Online LRS program is \$150 per calendar year. Payment is to be made when completing the online process. The membership fee entitles the participating attorney to select an unlimited number of major practice areas of the law in which referrals are requested. We encourage the attorney to choose only the areas in which he/she has experience and are competent.

