

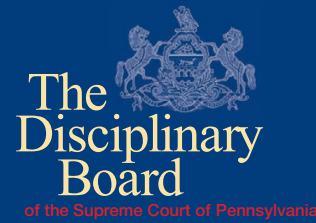


What is the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of PA?

The Disciplinary Board is an independent agency run at the direction of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The Supreme Court disciplines lawyers whose actions violate the Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Disciplinary Board's goals are to:

- Protect the public
- Maintain the integrity of the legal profession
- Safeguard the reputation of the courts



Locate the office in your area using the map below.

District Offices

District I

Office of Disciplinary Counsel
1601 Market Street, Suite 3320
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2337
(215) 560-6296

District II

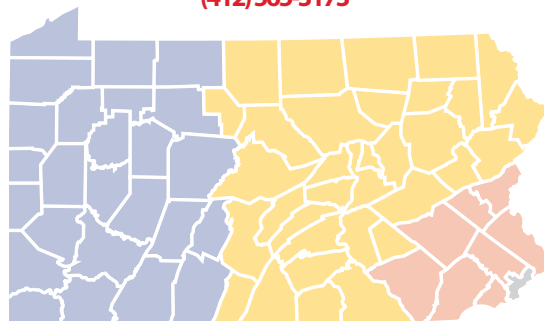
Office of Disciplinary Counsel
820 Adams Avenue, Suite 170
Trooper, PA 19403
(610) 650-8210

District III

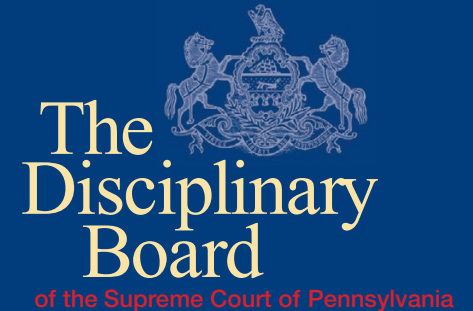
Office of Disciplinary Counsel
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5800
P.O. Box 62675
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2675
(717) 772-8572

District IV

Office of Disciplinary Counsel
437 Grant Street, Suite 1300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 565-3173



“What if my attorney violates the Rules?”





Reporting an Attorney.

Every licensed attorney in Pennsylvania takes an oath to follow the Rules of Professional Conduct. These rules define proper and improper conduct for a lawyer handling legal matters. A lawyer who does not follow these rules may be disciplined and given penalties ranging from a private discipline to a loss of the privilege to practice law.

If you think your lawyer has violated the Rules of Professional Conduct, you should file a complaint with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC). Your complaint will be handled by the district office covering the county in which your lawyer practices. ODC cannot represent you, resolve your legal problem, or recover money damages. If that is your goal, you should seek the advice of another lawyer.



What does the ODC do?

ODC will decide what, if any, action should be taken to address your complaint. They may decide to dismiss your complaint and will tell you why. They may decide to discipline your lawyer or they may decide to help your lawyer through legal education or training. Whatever the final decision, your interest in helping stop possible violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct can have far-reaching effects for an individual lawyer, for any future clients, and for the public in general.

How do I file a complaint?

OPTION 1: Fill out a complaint form, which is available by:

Visiting the "Consumer Information" section of the Disciplinary Board's Web site (www.padb.us) or by contacting your district ODC office. (Use the map on the back of this brochure to locate the ODC office in your area.)

If you are unable to complete the complaint form, a staff member can assist you.

OPTION 2: Send a signed letter instead of the complaint form by:

Providing as much documentation as you can to help the ODC evaluate your complaint. For example, you should include: copies of any fee agreements, the front and back of cancelled checks, communication between you and your lawyer, the date you hired your lawyer, names of opposing parties, any court records you may have, and a listing of what took place while you were represented. If you are not able to make copies, send ODC the originals to copy and return to you. The services of the ODC staff are free of charge.

What can I expect if I file a complaint?

The ODC will review your complaint and may ask you for additional information. Your lawyer may be asked to provide a response. If there is convincing proof the ethical Rules have been violated, ODC will recommend appropriate action be taken against your lawyer.

The lawyers and investigators with the ODC are well trained to recognize which actions of lawyers are violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct. They will determine whether there is enough evidence to prove if the Rules have been violated.



The
Disciplinary
Board
of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania



If you have any questions about the disciplinary system, please contact the District Office in your area, or visit www.padb.us.