

California Rules of Court Proposed new Rule 9.8

Rule 9.8 Online registration by attorneys

(a) Centralized registration and reporting mechanism

The State Bar must facilitate member registration and reporting of information required in the State Bar Act, or as directed by the Supreme Court, by providing members with a centralized mechanism for registration and reporting information online at the State Bar's Web site.

(b) Online registration and reporting requirement

Each member of the State Bar must register online by creating an individual profile at the State Bar's Web site and must use the profile to report and maintain current information required by the State Bar Act, other statutes, case law, or rule. A newly admitted member must create a profile and complete the initial registration within 90 days of admission. Creating a profile obligates a member to use it to report any change in required information within the time limits prescribed by the relevant authority.

(c) Additional information required

(1) When a member registers online, the member must provide an e-mail address to the State Bar. The e-mail address will be used exclusively for disciplinary or regulatory purposes unless the member indicates that it may be made available to the public. The member must report a change in the required e-mail address within 30 days.

(2) A member must report whether the member or the member's law firm has established and maintained one or more trust fund accounts required under Business and Professions Code section 6211. The member must report any change in the information on or before February 1 of each year.

(d) Public or confidential nature of information

This rule makes no change to the public or confidential nature of information that a member must report to the State Bar.

(e) Exemption

A member who does not have online access is exempt from using the online member profile, provided the member requests the exemption in the manner that the State Bar prescribes. A member who is granted an exemption must comply with reporting requirements within the time limits prescribed by the State Bar Act, other statute, case law, rule or other relevant authority.

(f) Non-compliance fee

The State Bar has the authority to set and collect an appropriate fee from any member who fails to comply with this rule and to add the fee to the member's annual membership fee for the year following the failure to register.