

Ethics Hotline

New York lawyers faced with ethical questions regarding their own prospective conduct can reach the Ethics Hotline at 212-267-6646.

The Ethics Hotline is staffed by volunteer members of the Committee on Professional Ethics who respond to inquiries from lawyers admitted in New York who face ethical questions regarding their own prospective conduct. The purpose of the Hotline is to provide informal guidance to callers in accordance with the New York Rules of Professional Conduct [link]. We do not respond to inquiries involving ethical conduct in other jurisdictions or the conduct of another attorney. Complaints or inquiries about another attorney should be addressed to the Grievance or Disciplinary Committee for the county in which the lawyer practices.

Any information provided in response to a Hotline inquiry is merely the opinion of the Committee member answering the call and not the opinion of the Committee as a whole or of the New York County Lawyer's Association. We do not give legal advice or opine on questions of substantive law. We do not answer questions that are being litigated in a pending legal proceeding or before a grievance committee. Due to the brief and informal nature of the call, we cannot provide definitive answers. If the matter involves complex issues, you may wish to retain professional ethics counsel.

Although it is the Committee's policy to maintain confidentiality of all Hotline inquiries, callers should be aware that the information is not protected by the attorney-client privilege or Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.6. Callers are required to provide their full name and telephone numbers.

If, after speaking with someone on the Hotline, a New York lawyer wishes to obtain a written informal opinion from the Committee, he or she may submit a written request. The Committee's informal opinions are limited to interpreting the Rules of Professional Conduct. Please be aware that the Committee cannot promise a speedy response to written requests. If your matter is urgent, you may wish to retain professional ethics counsel.