



The State Bar of California

Rule 8.3 Required Reporting

Effective August 1, 2023, lawyers must comply with Rule of Professional Conduct 8.3, which requires a lawyer who knows of credible evidence that another lawyer has engaged in certain conduct to report the lawyer.

Where to report

The rule allows attorneys to report through two channels:

- **The State Bar:** Lawyers can use the attorney misconduct online complaint form to report under their rule 8.3 obligations. When completing the form, please use the applicable check boxes to indicate that you are an attorney and you are submitting under rule 8.3.
- **A tribunal:** Lawyers may also report to a tribunal, defined in rule 1.0.1(m), but only if the tribunal has jurisdiction to investigate or act upon such misconduct. Rule 8.3 Comment [6] provides more information for a lawyer to consider in determining whether to report to a tribunal.

Resources to assist lawyers

The State Bar is developing resources to assist lawyers with this new obligation. Here are current resources:

- Learn about the new reporting obligations in this FAQ.
- Review scenarios that may create reporting obligations.

Lawyers may also contact the Ethics Hotline, which provides research assistance concerning a lawyer's professional responsibility obligations. The Ethics Hotline cannot provide legal advice.

Training

The State Bar is hosting a free, one-hour virtual webinar so that lawyers can learn about their new obligations under rule 8.3. The course is eligible for one hour of Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) participatory credit in ethics. In this course, you will:

- Learn about new Rule of Professional Conduct 8.3;
- Identify situations that create reporting obligations;
- Learn about situations where a lawyer may, but is not required to, report;
- Identify situations where a lawyer is prohibited from reporting; and
- Learn about other rules and authorities that are relevant to the rule 8.3 reporting obligations.

Sign up for upcoming courses:

- Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 1, 2023, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

Related links

- [Rule 8.3 Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Rule 8.3 Reporting Scenarios](#)
- [Other Reporting Requirements](#)
- [Rules of Professional Conduct](#)
- [State Bar Act](#)