

OFFICE OF LAWYER REGULATION AND ETHICAL VIOLATIONS BY ATTORNEYS

This document, created by the End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin – Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Legal Department, does not constitute legal advice.

I. Ethical Violations and the Office of Lawyer Regulation

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has authority over all attorneys licensed to practice in the State of Wisconsin. The Supreme Court has established rules governing attorney conduct. When attorneys are licensed, they promise to uphold the law and to be guided by rules of ethics adopted by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. A lawyer who violates these ethical standards is subject to discipline.

The Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR) has the responsibility for investigating grievances against attorneys. Complaints about unethical conduct must be a violation of the code of ethics and this violation must be proven with evidence. An honest disagreement about how to handle the case or a mistake does not constitute unethical conduct. A final decision by the OLR will be made based upon the weight of all of the available evidence and testimony. A violation of the code of ethics may, in very serious matters, mean suspension of the license to practice or even its revocation. You should not expect, as a result of your grievance, that you will receive any money or reimbursement of loss.

II. Instructions for Filing a Grievance Against a Licensed Wisconsin Attorney

- A. The Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR) *only* handles grievances against attorneys who are licensed to practice in Wisconsin. To obtain contact information regarding lawyer disciplinary agencies in other states, go to [the American Bar Association's directory](#).
- B. If you have a grievance against a lawyer licensed in Wisconsin, you can contact the [Wisconsin Office of Lawyer Regulation](#).

III. Malpractice Lawsuits

The Office of Lawyer Regulation cannot offer legal advice on the merits of a malpractice claim. However, if you believe a lawyer has wrongfully or negligently harmed you, you may consider consulting with another attorney about the possibility of making a malpractice claim against the lawyer.