

RULE CHANGE 2026(04)

RULES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN COLORADO

Rules 204.3 and 204.4

Rule 204.3. Judge Advocate Certification

(1) **General Statement and Eligibility.** In its discretion, the Supreme Court may certify a full-time commissioned officer and judge advocate of the United States Uniformed Services stationed in Colorado to be ~~temporarily~~ admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for the duration of eligibility under this rule if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The attorney is currently a member in good standing of the bar of all courts and jurisdictions in which ~~he or she~~ the attorney is admitted to practice;

(b) The attorney is not and has not been ~~is not currently~~ subject to an order of attorney discipline ~~or the subject of a pending formal disciplinary or disability matter in any jurisdiction;~~ and

(c) The attorney ~~possesses the character and fitness required of all applicants for admission to the practice of law in Colorado as set forth in C.R.C.P. 208~~ is not currently the subject of a pending disciplinary or disability investigation or a related formal matter in any jurisdiction.

(2) **Filing Requirements.** An applicant under this rule shall file an application for judge advocate certification with the Office of Attorney Registration. The applicant shall pay a fee in an amount fixed by the Supreme Court. The fee must be paid when the application is submitted. The application and fee shall be collected by the Office of Attorney Registration. The fee shall be made payable to the Clerk of the Supreme Court. The application shall include all of the following:

(a) A copy of the applicant's military orders reflecting a ~~permanent~~ change of station to a military installation in Colorado;

(b) A certification that the applicant has read and is familiar with the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct; and

(c) A certificate of good standing from all courts and jurisdictions in which the applicant is admitted to practice; and

(d) A disciplinary history letter from all courts and jurisdictions in which the applicant is admitted to practice.

(3) Attorneys seeking admission under this rule may be required to submit to a criminal background check and a background check to verify their eligibility pursuant to subsection (2).

~~(3)~~ **Scope of Authority.** An attorney certified under this rule shall be entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all duties, obligations, and responsibilities otherwise applicable to licensed Colorado lawyers ~~for the limited period of authorized practice under this rule~~. The attorney may not act as counsel for a client until certified under this rule.

(45) Discipline and Disability Jurisdiction. An attorney certified under this rule is subject to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct and C.R.C.P. 241-243 (Rules Governing Lawyer Discipline and Disability Proceedings).

(56) Termination of Certification. Certification under this rule shall automatically terminate when the attorney:

(a) Is no longer a member of the United States Uniformed Services;

(b) Is no longer under military orders to a military station located in Colorado;

~~(a)(c)~~ Ceases to serve as a judge advocate in Colorado;

~~(b)(d)~~ Is disciplinarily suspended or disbarred or placed on disability inactive status in any jurisdiction, court, or agency before which the attorney is admitted; or

~~(e)(e)~~ Is suspended in any jurisdiction for failure to pay child support or failure to cooperate in a disciplinary matter; ~~or~~

~~(d) Fails to maintain active status in at least one jurisdiction.~~

The attorney shall notify the Clerk of the Supreme Court Office of Attorney Registration of any change of status described in this section (6) within twenty-eight days of such change.

(67) Required Action After Termination of Certification. Upon the termination of certification pursuant to section (56) of this rule, the attorney, within twenty-eight days, shall:

(a) - (c) [NO CHANGE]

(78) Registration, Fees, and Continuing Legal Education. An attorney certified under this rule shall be required to pay annual registration fees and comply with all other provisions of C.R.C.P. 227, as well as the mandatory legal education requirements of C.R.C.P. 250.

(89) Registration Number. An attorney certified under this rule shall be assigned a registration number, which shall be used to identify that attorney's status in Colorado in accordance with applicable rules of procedure.

(910) Subsequent Attorney Admission. If an attorney certified under this rule is subsequently admitted to the practice of law in Colorado under C.R.C.P. 203.2, 203.3 or 203.4, that attorney's judge advocate certification shall be superseded by the Colorado license to practice law.

(1011) Professionalism Course. All attorneys certified under this rule must complete the course on professionalism as described in C.R.C.P. 203.1(8), within six months following certification.

Rule 204.4. Military Spouse Certification

(1) **General Statement and Eligibility.** Due to the unique mobility requirements of military families who support the defense of our nation, the Supreme Court in its discretion may certify an attorney who is a spouse, including a legally recognized domestic partner, (“spouse”), of a member of the United States Uniformed Services (“service-member”), stationed within Colorado, to practice law in Colorado for the duration of eligibility under this rule ~~pursuant to the terms of this rule~~ if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The attorney has been admitted to practice law ~~and is on active status~~ in another jurisdiction in the United States;

~~(b) The attorney holds a J.D. or LL.B. degree from a law school approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association at the time the applicant matriculated or graduated;~~

~~(e)~~(b) The attorney is currently a member in good standing of the bar of all courts and jurisdictions in which ~~he or she is~~ the attorney is admitted to practice; ~~and~~

~~(d)~~(c) The attorney is not and has not been ~~currently~~ subject to an order of attorney discipline ~~or the subject of a pending formal disciplinary or disability matter in any jurisdiction~~; and

(d) The attorney is not currently the subject of a pending disciplinary or disability investigation or a related formal matter in any jurisdiction.

~~(e) The attorney possesses the character and fitness required of all applicants for admission to the practice of law in Colorado as set forth in C.R.C.P. 208.~~

(2) **Filing Requirements.** An applicant under this rule shall file an application for military spouse certification with the Office of Attorney Registration. The applicant shall pay a fee in an amount fixed by the Supreme Court. The fee must be paid when the application is submitted. The application and fee shall be collected by the Office of Attorney Registration. The fee shall be made payable to the Clerk of the Supreme Court. ~~An applicant under this rule shall~~ The application shall include all of the following:

(a) Documentation that demonstrates the applicant’s presence in Colorado as a spouse of a service-member, including ~~by filing~~ a copy of the certification of legal relationship, such as a marriage or civil union license, and a copy of the service-member’s military orders reflecting a ~~permanent~~ change of station to a military installation in Colorado;

(b) A cCertificationy that the applicant has read and is familiar with the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct;

(c) ~~Provide the Office of Attorney Registration with a~~ A certificate of good standing from all courts and jurisdictions in which the attorney is admitted to practice; and

~~(d) Within twenty-six weeks of being certified under this rule, complete the required course on professionalism described in C.R.C.P. 203.2.~~

(d) A disciplinary history letter from all courts and jurisdictions in which the applicant is admitted to practice.

(3) Attorneys seeking admission under this rule may be required to submit to a criminal background check and a background check to verify their eligibility pursuant to subsection (2).

~~(34) **Scope of Authority.** Except as provided in this rule, an attorney admitted under this rule shall be entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all duties, obligations, and responsibilities otherwise applicable to licensed Colorado lawyers for the period of authorized practice under this rule. The attorney may not act as counsel for a client until certified under this rule.~~

~~(45) **Discipline and Disability Jurisdiction.** An attorney certified under this rule is subject to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct; C.R.C.P. 241-243 (Rules Governing Lawyer Discipline and Disability Proceedings); and C.R.C.P. 210 (Revocation of License).~~

~~(56) **Termination of Certification.**~~

(a) Certification under this rule shall terminate when:

(i) The service-member is no longer a member of the United States Uniformed Services;

(ii) The military spouse attorney is no longer a spouse of the service-member;

(iii) The service-member receives a ~~permanent~~ transfer outside Colorado, except that if the service-member has been assigned to an unaccompanied or remote assignment with no dependents authorized, the military spouse attorney may continue to practice law pursuant to the provisions of this rule until the service-member is assigned to a location with dependents authorized;

(iv) The military spouse is disciplinarily suspended or disbarred or placed on disability inactive status in any jurisdiction, court, or agency before which the attorney is admitted; or

(v) The military spouse is suspended in any jurisdiction for failure to pay child support or failure to cooperate in a disciplinary matter.

(b) If any of the events listed in subsection ~~(56)~~(a) occur, the attorney certified under this rule shall notify the Clerk of the Supreme Court Office of Attorney Registration, as well as the Attorney Regulation Counsel, Office of Admissions, of the event in writing within fourteen days of the date upon which the event occurs. Termination shall occur twenty-eight days thereafter, allowing for a twenty-eight-day winding down period. If the event occurs because the service member is deceased or disabled, the attorney shall notify the above offices within twenty-six

weeks of the date upon which the event occurs, and termination shall occur within twenty-eight days thereafter, allowing for a twenty-eight-day winding down period.

(67) Required Action After Termination of Certification. Upon the termination of certification pursuant to section (~~56~~) of this rule, the lawyer, within twenty-eight days, shall:

(a) - (d) [NO CHANGE]

(78) Registration, Fees, and Continuing Legal Education. An attorney certified under this rule shall be required to pay annual registration fees and comply with all other provisions of C.R.C.P. 227, as well as the mandatory legal education requirements of C.R.C.P. 250.

(89) Registration Number. An attorney certified under this rule shall be assigned a registration number, which shall be used to identify that attorney's registration status in Colorado in accordance with applicable rules of procedure.

(910) Subsequent Attorney Admission. If an attorney certified under this rule is subsequently admitted to the practice of law in Colorado under C.R.C.P. 203.2, 203.3 or 203.4, that attorney's military spouse certification shall be superseded by the Colorado license to practice law.

(1011) Professionalism Course. All attorneys certified under this rule must complete the course on professionalism as described in C.R.C.P. 203.1(8), within six months following certification.

Rule 204.3. Judge Advocate Certification

(1) **General Statement and Eligibility.** In its discretion, the Supreme Court may certify a full-time commissioned officer and judge advocate of the United States Uniformed Services stationed in Colorado to be admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for the duration of eligibility under this rule if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The attorney is currently a member in good standing of the bar of all courts and jurisdictions in which the attorney is admitted to practice;

(b) The attorney is not and has not been subject to an order of attorney discipline; and

(c) The attorney is not currently the subject of a pending disciplinary or disability investigation or a related formal matter in any jurisdiction.

(2) **Filing Requirements.** An applicant under this rule shall file an application for judge advocate certification with the Office of Attorney Registration. The applicant shall pay a fee in an amount fixed by the Supreme Court. The fee must be paid when the application is submitted. The application and fee shall be collected by the Office of Attorney Registration. The fee shall be made payable to the Clerk of the Supreme Court. The application shall include all of the following:

(a) A copy of the applicant's military orders reflecting a change of station to a military installation in Colorado;

(b) A certification that the applicant has read and is familiar with the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct;

(c) A certificate of good standing from all courts and jurisdictions in which the applicant is admitted to practice; and

(d) A disciplinary history letter from all courts and jurisdictions in which the applicant is admitted to practice.

(3) Attorneys seeking admission under this rule may be required to submit to a criminal background check and a background check to verify their eligibility pursuant to subsection (2).

(4) **Scope of Authority.** An attorney certified under this rule shall be entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all duties, obligations, and responsibilities otherwise applicable to licensed Colorado lawyers. The attorney may not act as counsel for a client until certified under this rule.

(5) **Discipline and Disability Jurisdiction.** An attorney certified under this rule is subject to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct and C.R.C.P. 241-243 (Rules Governing Lawyer Discipline and Disability Proceedings).

(6) Termination of Certification. Certification under this rule shall automatically terminate when the attorney:

- (a) Is no longer a member of the United States Uniformed Services;
- (b) Is no longer under military orders to a military station located in Colorado;
- (c) Ceases to serve as a judge advocate in Colorado;
- (d) Is disciplinarily suspended or disbarred or placed on disability inactive status in any jurisdiction, court, or agency before which the attorney is admitted; or
- (e) Is suspended in any jurisdiction for failure to pay child support or failure to cooperate in a disciplinary matter.

The attorney shall notify the Clerk of the Supreme Court Office of Attorney Registration of any change of status described in this section (6) within twenty-eight days of such change.

(7) Required Action After Termination of Certification. Upon the termination of certification pursuant to section (6) of this rule, the attorney, within twenty-eight days, shall:

- (a) - (c) [NO CHANGE]

(8) Registration, Fees, and Continuing Legal Education. An attorney certified under this rule shall be required to pay annual registration fees and comply with all other provisions of C.R.C.P. 227, as well as the mandatory legal education requirements of C.R.C.P. 250.

(9) Registration Number. An attorney certified under this rule shall be assigned a registration number, which shall be used to identify that attorney's status in Colorado in accordance with applicable rules of procedure.

(10) Subsequent Attorney Admission. If an attorney certified under this rule is subsequently admitted to the practice of law in Colorado under C.R.C.P. 203.2, 203.3 or 203.4, that attorney's judge advocate certification shall be superseded by the Colorado license to practice law.

(11) Professionalism Course. All attorneys certified under this rule must complete the course on professionalism as described in C.R.C.P. 203.1(8), within six months following certification.

Rule 204.4. Military Spouse Certification

(1) **General Statement and Eligibility.** Due to the unique mobility requirements of military families who support the defense of our nation, the Supreme Court in its discretion may certify an attorney who is a spouse, including a legally recognized domestic partner (“spouse”), of a member of the United States Uniformed Services (“servicemember”), stationed within Colorado, to practice law in Colorado for the duration of eligibility under this rule if all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) The attorney has been admitted to practice law in another jurisdiction in the United States;
- (b) The attorney is currently a member in good standing of the bar of all courts and jurisdictions in which the attorney is admitted to practice;
- (c) The attorney is not and has not been subject to an order of attorney discipline; and
- (d) The attorney is not currently the subject of a pending disciplinary or disability investigation or a related formal matter in any jurisdiction.

(2) **Filing Requirements.** An applicant under this rule shall file an application for military spouse certification with the Office of Attorney Registration. The applicant shall pay a fee in an amount fixed by the Supreme Court. The fee must be paid when the application is submitted. The application and fee shall be collected by the Office of Attorney Registration. The fee shall be made payable to the Clerk of the Supreme Court. The application shall include all of the following:

- (a) Documentation that demonstrates the applicant’s presence in Colorado as a spouse of a servicemember, including a copy of the certification of legal relationship, such as a marriage or civil union license, and a copy of the servicemember’s military orders reflecting a change of station to a military installation in Colorado;
- (b) A certification that the applicant has read and is familiar with the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct;
- (c) A certificate of good standing from all courts and jurisdictions in which the attorney is admitted to practice; and
- (d) A disciplinary history letter from all courts and jurisdictions in which the applicant is admitted to practice.

(3) Attorneys seeking admission under this rule may be required to submit to a criminal background check and a background check to verify their eligibility pursuant to subsection (2).

(4) **Scope of Authority.** Except as provided in this rule, an attorney admitted under this rule shall be entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all duties, obligations, and

responsibilities otherwise applicable to licensed Colorado lawyers. The attorney may not act as counsel for a client until certified under this rule.

(5) Discipline and Disability Jurisdiction. An attorney certified under this rule is subject to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct; C.R.C.P. 241-243 (Rules Governing Lawyer Discipline and Disability Proceedings); and C.R.C.P. 210 (Revocation of License).

(6) Termination of Certification.

(a) Certification under this rule shall terminate when:

(i) The servicemember is no longer a member of the United States Uniformed Services;

(ii) The military spouse attorney is no longer a spouse of the servicemember;

(iii) The servicemember receives a transfer outside Colorado, except that if the servicemember has been assigned to an unaccompanied or remote assignment with no dependents authorized, the military spouse attorney may continue to practice law pursuant to the provisions of this rule until the servicemember is assigned to a location with dependents authorized;

(iv) The military spouse is disciplinarily suspended or disbarred or placed on disability inactive status in any jurisdiction, court, or agency before which the attorney is admitted; or

(v) The military spouse is suspended in any jurisdiction for failure to pay child support or failure to cooperate in a disciplinary matter.

(b) If any of the events listed in subsection (6)(a) occur, the attorney certified under this rule shall notify the Clerk of the Supreme Court Office of Attorney Registration, as well as the Attorney Regulation Counsel, Office of Admissions, of the event in writing within fourteen days of the date upon which the event occurs. Termination shall occur twenty-eight days thereafter, allowing for a twenty-eight-day winding down period. If the event occurs because the servicemember is deceased or disabled, the attorney shall notify the above offices within twenty-six weeks of the date upon which the event occurs, and termination shall occur within twenty-eight days thereafter, allowing for a twenty-eight-day winding down period.

(7) Required Action After Termination of Certification. Upon the termination of certification pursuant to section (6) of this rule, the lawyer, within twenty-eight days, shall:

(a) - (d) [NO CHANGE]

(8) Registration, Fees, and Continuing Legal Education. An attorney certified under this rule shall be required to pay annual registration fees and comply with all other provisions of C.R.C.P. 227, as well as the mandatory legal education requirements of C.R.C.P. 250.

(9) **Registration Number.** An attorney certified under this rule shall be assigned a registration number, which shall be used to identify that attorney's registration status in Colorado in accordance with applicable rules of procedure.

(10) **Subsequent Attorney Admission.** If an attorney certified under this rule is subsequently admitted to the practice of law in Colorado under C.R.C.P. 203.2, 203.3 or 203.4, that attorney's military spouse certification shall be superseded by the Colorado license to practice law.

(11) **Professionalism Course.** All attorneys certified under this rule must complete the course on professionalism as described in C.R.C.P. 203.1(8), within six months following certification.

Amended and Adopted by the Court, En Banc, March 12, 2026, effective immediately.

By the Court:

**William W. Hood, III
Justice, Colorado Supreme Court**