

Frequently Asked Questions: How to Obtain Public Information

How do I search for an attorney?

By visiting the [Look Up An Attorney](#) section of the Web site, you are able to search Pennsylvania attorneys and gain information about an attorney, such as an attorney's status, date of admission, current address, or whether an attorney, has been subjected to public discipline and/or disability inactive status.

How can I obtain copies of disciplinary documents?

Contact the Office of the Secretary by calling 717-231-3380.

How do I find the Order regarding the actions made by the Disciplinary Board for an attorney?

Visit the [Supreme Court Actions](#) page, which shows the recent Supreme Court actions. If the Order is available, an "Opinion" in PDF format will be available for download.

Where can I find information about attorneys if disciplined more than 5 years ago?

If the attorney was disciplined more than 5 years ago, [look up the attorney](#) by name. If there is a report posted, the link to that report is listed under the discipline. If the report you are seeking is not available online, full information as to any public discipline case is available from the address below. You must provide the date of the Supreme Court Order, and there is a per page charge of \$1.00 for copies of documents.

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Western District Office
801 City-County Building
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
(412) 565-2816

If an attorney is under investigation, may I obtain any information about why he or she is being investigated or what the status is?

No. If an attorney is under investigation, the information is confidential as stated in the [PA Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement \(Rule 402\)](#). The Right to Know does not apply to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

If a petition for reinstatement is filed, may I obtain a copy of the petition, or obtain any information to determine why it was filed?

Yes. Call the Office of the Secretary at 717-231-3380. There is a \$.50 per page charge for all copies.

If an attorney is listed as having an inactive status, is any information available regarding the reasoning for the status?

Yes. Call the Office of the Secretary at 717-231-3380 and you may ask why the attorney is on inactive status.

If an attorney's status shows "Temporary Suspension" is there information available for the media/public?

When there is a "temporary suspension," an opinion will not be posted on the Disciplinary Board site because it's an interim discipline (not a final order), but there will be a final order at some point. You may revisit the site to check whether the status has changed.

What does it mean when a "Petition for Discipline" or "Answer to Petition for Discipline by respondent" is listed under the description of an attorney's status?

This is a pleading, and there aren't any conclusions to date. This information can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Secretary at 717-231-3380. There is a \$.50 per page charge for all copies; however, should the case go past that stage, the information may not be relevant.

If "Petition referred to hearing committee or hearing scheduled" is listed under the description of an attorney's status, what does this mean?

The contents of the petition are available for purchase. You can obtain them by contacting the Office of the Secretary at 717-231-3380. Each page is \$.50 and you must prepay by check. No credit cards are accepted. If you don't wish to purchase the documents, the final report will be posted on the Disciplinary Board's Web site after the Order is entered. It can be downloaded for free.

What is a "Supreme Court Action Enclosing Board Report," and how may I get a copy of the report?

This report includes the details of the case. A copy of the report may be purchased by contacting the Office of the Secretary at 717-231-3380. Each page is \$.50 and you must prepay by check. No credit cards are accepted. If you don't wish to purchase the report, it will become available through the Board's Web site and listed under the [Recent Discipline Table](#) after the case is final. The Disciplinary Board cannot confirm the time when it will be posted, as it varies by case.

May I obtain a copy of the Hearing Committee Report?

Yes, if a Hearing Committee Report has been filed, it is a public proceeding. Therefore, a copy of the report may be purchased by contacting Elaine Bixler at 717-231-3380. Each page is \$.50 and you must prepay by check. No credit cards are accepted. If you don't wish to purchase the report, it will be posted on the Disciplinary Board's Web site after the Order is entered. It can be downloaded for free.