

Rule 7. Retired Status: Inactive

A. Retirement Affidavit. A lawyer or judge may file a Retirement Affidavit with the Lawyer Registration Office stating that the lawyer or judge (1) is in good standing with the Lawyer Registration Office; (2) does not hold judicial office in this state and does not sit by special appointment; (3) is not engaged in the practice of law in any state, territory, or the District of Columbia; and (4) either: (a) is at least 68 years of age, or (b) is at least 62 years of age and commits to providing 20 hours or more of pro bono legal representation per year through an approved legal services provider, as defined in Rule 2B of the Rules of the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education.

B. Effect. The filing of a Retirement Affidavit with the Lawyer Registration Office places the lawyer or judge on inactive status and exempts the lawyer or judge from payment of fees while it is effective. A lawyer who files a Retirement Affidavit with the Lawyer Registration Office and who is placed on inactive status by the Lawyer Registration Office shall be transferred to voluntary restricted status by the CLE Board.

C. Renewal; Expiration; Reporting. A Retirement Affidavit, once filed, is effective for each succeeding year unless the lawyer or judge transfers to active status pursuant to Rule 9 or resumes the practice of law in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia. A lawyer or judge who no longer meets the requirements of this status must promptly comply with the requirements of active or inactive status, file a completed Lawyer Registration Statement with the Lawyer Registration Office, and pay the annual registration fee. Additionally, between the ages of 62 and 67, lawyers must complete an annual reporting form providing information on the type of pro bono legal representation provided and the number of hours completed in the preceding year.

D. Emeritus Status: Authorization to Provide Pro Bono Services. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 2B, 7B, and 9B regarding authorization to practice law in this state, a lawyer or judge whose Retirement Affidavit is effective may engage in the pro bono legal representation of pro bono clients if the lawyer or judge complies with Rule 14 of the Rules of the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education.

(Added February 13, 1986; amended effective July 1, 2001; amended effective August 5, 2003; amended effective July 1, 2005; amended effective October 1, 2006; amended effective July 1, 2010; amended effective July 1, 2018; amended effective July 1, 2024; amended effective November 19, 2025; amended effective May 1, 2026.)