

Rule 8.1. Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters.

Colorado Court Rules

Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct

Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession

As amended through Rule Change 2018(6), effective April 12, 2018

Rule 8.1. Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters

An applicant for admission, readmission, or reinstatement to the bar, or a lawyer in connection with an application for admission, readmission, or reinstatement to the bar or in connection with a disciplinary matter, shall not:

- (a) knowingly make a false statement of material fact; or
- (b) fail to disclose a fact necessary to correct a misapprehension known by the person to have arisen in the matter, or knowingly fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority, except that this Rule does not require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6.

Cite as RPC 8.1

History. Entire Appendix repealed and readopted April 12, 2007, effective January 1, 2008.

Note:

COMMENT

[1] The duty imposed by this Rule extends to persons seeking admission to the bar as well as to lawyers. Hence, if a person makes a material false statement in connection with an application for admission, it may be the basis for subsequent disciplinary action if the person is admitted, and in any event may be relevant in a subsequent admission application. The duty imposed by this Rule applies to a lawyer's own admission or discipline as well as that of others. Thus, it is a separate professional offense for a lawyer to knowingly make a misrepresentation or omission in connection with a disciplinary investigation of the lawyer's own conduct. Paragraph (b) of this Rule also requires correction of any prior misstatement in the matter that the applicant or lawyer may have made and affirmative clarification of any misunderstanding on the part of the admissions or disciplinary authority of which the person involved becomes aware.

[2] This Rule is subject to the provisions of the fifth amendment of the United States Constitution and corresponding provisions of state constitutions. Rule 8.1(b) does not prohibit a good faith challenge to the demand for such information. A person relying on such a provision or challenge in response to a question, however, should do so

openly and not use the right of nondisclosure as a justification for failure to comply with this Rule.

[3] A lawyer representing an applicant for admission to the bar, or representing a lawyer who is the subject of a disciplinary inquiry or proceeding, is governed by the rules applicable to the client-lawyer relationship, including Rule 1.6 and, in some cases, Rule 3.3.