

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: RULE 8, RPC 7.6 AND RULE 44,
RULES OF THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT

No. ADM2021-01008

ORDER

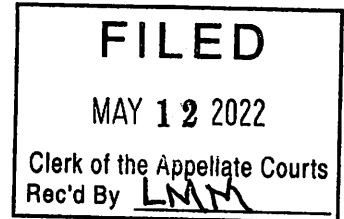
On December 15, 2021, this Court entered an order amending Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, RPC 7.6 and deleting Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 44, regarding intermediary organizations, and these amendments became effective January 1, 2022.

On April 19, 2022, the Knoxville Bar Association (“KBA”) filed a petition asking this Court to clarify by “perhaps an official Comment” that neither the deletion of Rule 44 nor the amendment of Rule 8, RPC 7.6 alters Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, RPC 5.4(a)(6), which allows an attorney to pay a non-profit intermediary organization “a referral fee calculated by reference to a reasonable percentage of the fee paid to the lawyer by the client referred to the lawyer by the intermediary organization.” The KBA “seeks this clarification to be certain that the fee structure of its Lawyer Referral and Information Service remains consistent with the requirements of the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court.”

Upon due consideration, the request for clarification is well-taken. Accordingly, the Court hereby amends Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, RPC 5.4(a)(6) and RPC 7.6(b)(5), as set out in the attached Appendix.

It is so ORDERED.

PER CURIAM



APPENDIX

Amendments to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, RPC 5.4(a)(6) and RPC 7.6(b)(5)

[New text is indicated by underlining/Deleted text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~]

Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 5.4(a)(6) is amended as follows:

(6) a lawyer may pay to a ~~registered~~ non-profit intermediary organization a referral fee calculated by reference to a reasonable percentage of the fee paid to the lawyer by the client referred to the lawyer by the non-profit intermediary organization.

Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 7.6(b)(5) is amended as follows:

(5) The intermediary organization does not require the lawyer to pay more than a reasonable sum representing a proportional share of the organization's administrative and advertising costs, or, in the case of a non-profit intermediary organization, a referral fee calculated by reference to a reasonable percentage of the fee paid to the lawyer by the client referred to the lawyer by the non-profit intermediary organization;

(END OF APPENDIX)