

CLC PRACTICE POINT

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HOW TO GET CLE CREDITS FOR YOUR PRO BONO EFFORTS

By Linda S. Foreman- CLC Executive Director

Did you know that Minnesota lawyers can get Continuing Legal Education credits for complying with the pro bono *publico* legal services requirement in Rule 6.1 of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct? So, in addition to providing much needed legal services to a CLC child-client in foster care, you can get CLE credits!

The Minnesota Supreme Court in 2008 amended Rules 2 and 6 of the Rules of the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education to allow limited CLE credit for pro bono legal services. Rule 6 provides that a lawyer may claim one hour of standard CLE credit for every six hours of pro bono legal representation the lawyer provides to a "pro bono client." A lawyer may claim up to six hours of these "pro bono for CLE credits" in a three year CLE reporting cycle.

Rule 2 defines "pro bono client" as an individual who has been referred to the lawyer by an "approved legal services provider." The Children's Law Center of Minnesota qualifies as an "approved legal services provider" and a CLC client who is referred to you qualifies as "pro bono client" under the Rule. This means you may claim one CLE credit for every six hours of pro bono work you do on behalf of a CLC client, up to a maximum of six CLE credits.

Claiming CLE credits for pro bono work on behalf of CLC clients is quite easy. All you need to do is:

1. Make sure you have submitted to CLC your CLC Case Acceptance form for any CLC clients you represent.
2. Send an email to CLC Office Manager Jessica Passaro at jpassaro@clcmn.org reporting the hours you have worked on the case(s) in 2009 and/or during your three year CLE reporting cycle.
3. Complete the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education form "[Affidavit of Pro Bono Representation](#)"¹ and submit it to the CLE Board. When filling out that form, make sure to list Children's Law Center of Minnesota as the referring legal services provider and CLC Managing Attorney Anne Gueinzus as the contact person at the provider.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact us.

¹ Link to "[Affidavit of Pro Bono Representation](#)"

http://www.mbcle.state.mn.us/MBCLE/pages/user_documents/Pro%20Bono%20Affidavit%20Appendix%20III.pdf