



Continuing Professional Development Requirement

- Requirement is 12 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) annually with a minimum of three hours to be taken in ethics, professionalism, and/or practice management.
 - Applies to all lawyers who practise law and paralegals who provide legal services – those in the Law Society's 100% fee paying category.
 - Includes an allowance for exemptions to accommodate special needs and circumstances.
 - Comes into effect January 1, 2011.
- Continuing professional development is defined as the maintenance and enhancement of a lawyer's or paralegal's professional knowledge, skills, attitudes and ethics throughout the individual's career.

Eligible Activities

- Participation in CPD courses.
- Participation as a registrant in a college, university or other designated educational institution program, including distance education.
- Teaching (to a maximum of 6 hours per year).
- Acting as an articling principal or mentoring or being mentored or supervising a paralegal field placement (to a maximum of 6 hours per year).
- Writing and editing books or articles (to a maximum of 6 hours per year).
- Study groups.
- Educational components of bar and law association meetings.

Additional Details

- The Law Society will deliver the required ethics, professionalism and practice management content without charging program registration or materials fees.
- Lawyers and paralegals will be able to track their CLE activities through a web-based portal. Automatically generated notices will be delivered at regular intervals to update the lawyer or paralegal on their status.
- For their first two full years of practice or providing legal services, new lawyers and paralegals must choose 12 hours of CPD from specific, accredited programs, as part of the licensing process.
- Compliance will be monitored through self-reporting and random audits. There will be a total of 500 audits of lawyers and 25 audits of paralegals annually.
- Lawyers and paralegals who fail to meet the requirement will be subject to administrative suspension.

(See report for full details)