

New Rules and Regulations for Temporary Licensees and Supervisors Now Effective

New Rules and Regulations become effective today, April 15, 2019. Specifically, amendments to Chapter 257-X-3-.01 Temporary Licensure are now in effect having completed the public advertisement, public comment period, Board review of written public comments received, certification, and final review by the Legislative Services Agency determining that the proposed amendment does not have any effect on trade. The final rule was adopted without change from the advertised amendment and is available in final form at <http://www.abcr.alabama.gov/PDF/2019/RulesRegs4-15-2019.pdf>

ABCR is authorized by statute to issue a one-time temporary license to graduates of a court reporting program who have not passed the examination as long as the temporary licensee is under supervision from an Alabama Certified Court Reporter (ACCR). It is our aim with these rules to protect the public as well as serve temporary licensees by clarifying supervision. These requirements are also to help temporary licensees find the best path towards becoming fully licensed by taking advantage of all available testing opportunities. The rules detail the responsibilities of both the temporary licensee and the supervising ACCR.

The temporary licensee is responsible for the following: test at every available opportunity and report test dates and scores to ABCR; court reporting services provided by the temporary licensee must be billed solely through the employer or supervisor; reflect their temporary licensure status by using the initials, "TL" followed by their assigned number; report every six months to the Board of the work being performed under their temporary license; notify the Board in writing of any change of their supervisor; and most importantly only provide court reporting services under the direct supervision of their supervising court reporter as defined in Chapter 257-X-3-.01 (5)(a)(1) of the ABCR Rules and Regulations.

The supervising court reporter is responsible for the following: make sure temporary licensees are not assigned work above their skill level; certify the temporary licensee's work product by including their signature and license number on the transcript; accept responsibility for the work of the temporary licensee; notify any change of supervision to ABCR; and ensure the temporary licensee only works under their direct supervision as defined in Chapter 257-X-3-.01 (5)(a)(1) of the ABCR Rules and Regulations.

There are currently only four temporary licensees with many graduates passing the exam and achieving ACCR right away. We are very lucky to have Gadsden State's Program in Alabama. Both Gadsden State and ACCR's willing to take on the responsibility of supervision are to be commended for their work in preparing students and temporary licensees to achieve full licensure. Ultimately, this supports ABCR in our work to protect consumers of court reporting services in Alabama. Whether accomplished with or without the process of a temporary license requiring supervision, be assured that ABCR celebrates individuals whenever they achieve their full licensure and discover the pride in being an ACCR.