

**ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING**  
**Rules & Regulations Proposed Revisions**  
**(New language underlined, removed language struck through)**

These proposed revisions to the Board's Rules & Regulations are published for comment by the public. The comment period will run through August 8, 2022. The Board will have a public hearing on the proposed revisions at a meeting scheduled for August 10 at 10:30 am at the Administrative Office of Courts, Formal Conference Room, 300 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104. Written comments may be sent to: ABCR, P.O. Box 241565, Montgomery, AL 36124-1565.

Chapter 257-X-1-.06 Maintenance and Inspection of Board Records

(5) Public records maintained by the Board that are available for inspection and duplication include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Names, ~~and~~, business addresses, and business telephone numbers of current licensees;

Rationale: The current wording identifies names and addresses without qualification. An administrative interpretation has been made that "not limited to" would include telephone numbers. However, there is no distinction between employment or home with respect to either address or telephone number.

Chapter 257-X-3-.02 Traditional Application for Licensure

(1) Applicants for licensure as court reporters must meet the following requirements in order to obtain a license:

- (a) Provide proof of graduation from court reporting program or its equivalent in the form of: Official Transcripts, Copy of Diploma, or Official Letter from the Court Reporting Program's Director;
- (b) Pass the Licensure Examination;
- (c) Complete the application and remit all appropriate fees.

(2) For purposes of this rule, "court reporting program or its equivalent" shall mean any court reporter education programs that have met the General Requirements and Minimum Standards (GRMS) established by the Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), and thus designated as NCRA-approved, or such other instructional programs designated by the Board as providing an equivalent standard of instruction. Non-NCRA-approved programs seeking designation as an approved program must submit an application to the Board establishing that its

program is equivalent to those receiving NCRA approval. To be recognized for licensure purposes in Alabama, a school or program curriculum should include, at a minimum, instruction on steno theory, technology, judicial procedures, speed building (requiring a speed equal to or exceeding the state certification exam requirements), punctuation, and an internship component. Approval of a non-NCRA approved instructional program may be subject to periodic review and may be revoked upon a determination by the Board that the instructional program no longer meets the requirements of an "equivalent" program.

- (3) The provisions of Chapter 257-X-3-.02(2) shall not serve to invalidate any license granted by the Board prior to its effective date.
- (4) In the case of an NCRA certified reporter (RPR) seeking a license in the state of Alabama and unable to provide proof of graduation from a court reporting program or its equivalent due to the school/program having closed, the applicant shall provide to the Board an affidavit setting forth his or her past education and work experience as a court reporter and an affidavit of a judge for whom the individual has worked, or three licensed attorneys, unrelated by blood or marriage to the applicant and who have utilized the services of the reporter, which attest to the applicant's proficiency in court reporting.

Rationale: The current wording leaves the term "or its equivalent" undefined, creating ambiguity and a possible unintended loophole to the Board's minimum education requirement. The added wording in (2) and (3) would establish minimum expectations for what constitutes an "equivalent" to graduation from a court reporting program and a defined process for recognizing such programs. The proposed wording in (4) would establish an avenue for reporters who may meet the education requirement but are unable to provide documentation to that effect due to a school closure.

#### Chapter 257-X-7 Appendix I Fee Schedule

Roster List Fee            \$10 25

Rationale: This fee has not been changed since inception and may not be appropriate for current conditions.