



IN SIGHT for Oregon Lawyers

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE

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OAAP: CONFIDENTIALLY YOURS

In our work with lawyers, we are often asked whether the OAAP is confidential. The answer is: Yes. The OAAP is conducted on the strictest basis of confidentiality. No information learned about or provided by an attorney is disclosed to any person or organization outside the OAAP, unless the person accessing the OAAP requests the OAAP to release information. The only exceptions to OAAP confidentiality are: 1) to avert a serious, imminent threat to your health or safety or that of another person and 2) to comply with legal obligations such as a duty to report child or elder abuse. Recovery support meetings, such as 12-step meetings, are anonymous. No sign-in sheet or other evidence of participation is used at the meetings, and no names are gathered or revealed.

The OAAP's approach to confidentiality is more than a verbal commitment to confidentiality. It is backed by a strong series of statutes, OSB bylaws, and PLF policies. These statutes, bylaws and policies include ORS 9.568; OSB Bylaw Article 24; PLF Policies 6.100, 6.200, and 6.300; and Oregon Rule of Professional Conduct 8.3(c)(3). Together, these rules and regulations establish the unique confidentiality protections offered by the OAAP. These protections include:

- Information provided to or obtained by the OAAP is not discoverable or admissible in any civil proceeding without the written consent of the attorney involved.
- Information provided to or obtained by the OAAP is exempt from the provisions of ORS 192.410 to 192.505 (the

Public Records Law) and the provisions of ORS 192.610 to 192.690 (the Public Meetings Law).

- Attorneys are exempt from the duty to report found in ORPC 8.3(c)(3) if the knowledge is obtained while participating in the OAAP.
- OAAP services are provided at a physical location that is separate from the Oregon State Bar and the Professional Liability Fund.
- The OAAP does not maintain client files.

These protections were created to safeguard the privacy of the lawyers who access the OAAP. In addition, OSB and PLF rules and regulations prohibit the OAAP from providing names of participants to anyone outside the OAAP. These rules and regulations also prohibit the PLF CEO, the PLF Board of Directors, and the OSB Board of Governors from requesting or requiring that the identity of any person who has received assistance from the OAAP be disclosed to them. The OAAP's obligation to provide information to its Board of Directors is met by providing the board with program information and statistics.

The OAAP is here to help you. It is free and completely confidential. To reach an attorney counselor, call 503-226-1057 or 800-321-6227.

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OREGON ATTORNEY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

503-226-1057
1-800-321-OAAP
www.oaap.org

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