

Delaware Supreme Court Amends Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct to Authorize Modest Gifts to Indigent Clients.

By an order dated December 18, 2023, the Delaware Supreme Court has amended Rule 1.8 of the Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct to permit a lawyer representing an indigent client pro bono to provide modest financial assistance to the client for basic living expenses. The amendment follows changes to the Model Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by the American Bar Association in 2020. Multiple other states have similar provisions in their professional conduct rules. The amendment will promote access to justice for Delaware's most vulnerable populations, without compromising lawyer independence.

The rule amendments are effective immediately and are available on the [Court's website](#). If you have any questions, please contact Karlis Johnson, Supreme Court Administrator, at Karlis.Johnson@Delaware.gov or (302) 651-3906.