

## 2018 Birmingham Bar Association LawyerConnect Rules

### 1. **Purpose of LawyerConnect:**

The purpose of the LawyerConnect program is to provide a public service to the Birmingham community by referring potential clients who want to hire a lawyer to Birmingham Bar Association members who join LawyerConnect. The service also provides attorneys a way to diversify and expand their client base.

### 2. **LawyerConnect Membership Qualifications and Responsibilities:**

LawyerConnect membership is open to Birmingham Bar Association members who submit an application along with the \$150.00 annual membership fee and who meet the following criteria:

- (a) Be a member in good standing of the Alabama State Bar. Membership must remain in force without lapse.
- (b) Have not been disciplined by the Alabama State Bar within the past three years.
- (c) Be engaged in the full time private practice of law, apart from any activity that could be a conflict of interest or could make the member inaccessible to clients during normal business hours.
- (d) Maintain active membership within the Birmingham Bar Association.
- (e) Personally certify competency in those areas of law in which you will accept clients and/or designate areas of law in which clients will not be accepted.
- (f) Abide by all rules promulgated by the Birmingham Bar Association LawyerConnect service and the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct, as amended.
- (g) Abide by a final determination of the Birmingham Bar Association Fee Arbitration Committee in the event of any dispute over fees arising between the attorney and the referred client.
- (h) Maintain professional liability insurance.

### 3. **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

The annual LawyerConnect membership dues are determined by the Birmingham Bar Association. All dues are non-refundable, except upon written request and as approved by the Birmingham Bar Association. Membership dues will not be pro-rated, and membership runs from April 1 to March 30 each year.

### 4. **REFERRAL INTERVIEW:**

Prospective clients referred to a LawyerConnect attorney must be interviewed by that attorney, or by an associate or firm member under the direct supervision

of that attorney. The referred attorney will negotiate any consultation or representation fee directly with the prospective client.

**5. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES:**

LawyerConnect members must notify the Birmingham Bar Association in writing of any changes in contact information, insurance information, and/or any changes to practice category information.

**6. PANEL MEMBERSHIP SUSPENSION, DENIAL:**

(a) Suspension: The Executive Director of the Birmingham Bar Association may suspend any LawyerConnect member for any violation of the rules. Any such suspension will be informal, need not be in writing, and will exist for a period of no more than sixty (60) days. Any suspended panel member's status will not be jeopardized by such action except that referrals will not be made during the suspension period. The Executive Director may extend the period of suspension.

(b) Denial: The Executive Director has the authority to deny membership to any applicant deemed to have failed to comply with any of the LawyerConnect rules.

**7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

After action by the Executive Director as indicated in 6(a) or (b) above, or if any LawyerConnect member makes a claim against the LawyerConnect program for any reason and a resolution cannot be reached, then upon written demand of either, the matter at issue will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association.

**8. OTHER AUTHORITY:**

Nothing herein shall be construed to infringe, and shall not infringe, upon the authority exercised, and retained, by the Supreme Court of Alabama.

Revised 3/23/18