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GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION
(68 of 2025)

16 APRIL 2025

Notification No.SO(C)/PPD/1-10/2019, dated 09.04.2025 issued by the Public Prosecution Department, is hereby published in the Punjab Gazette (Extraordinary) for general information:

"GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
PUBLIC PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT

Dated Lahore, the 9th April, 2025

NOTIFICATION

No. SO(C)/PPD/1-10/2019 .- In exercise of the powers conferred under section 11 of the Punjab Legal Aid Act 2018 (*XIX of 2018*), Governor of the Punjab is pleased to make the following Code of Conduct for Accredited Advocates:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Code may be cited as the Code of Conduct for Accredited Advocates 2025.

(2) It shall apply to accredited advocates in addition to any other law applicable to the conduct of an advocate including the Canons of the Professional Conduct and Etiquette provided under the Pakistan Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Rules, 1976.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions. (1) In the Code, unless the subject or the context requires otherwise:

(a) "accredited Advocate" means an advocate accredited by the Agency for provision of legal aid to an indigent person;

(b) "Act" means the Punjab Legal Aid Act 2018 (*XIX of 2018*);

(c) "client" means an indigent person who is receiving legal services from an accredited Advocate;

(d) "Code" means the Code of Conduct for Accredited Advocates 2025;

(e) "professional body" means the Pakistan Bar Council, Punjab Bar Council, or any other body authorized under the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973 (XXXV of 1973); and

(f) "rules" means the Punjab Legal Aid Agency Rules 2025.

(2) A word or expression used but not defined in the Code shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in the Act and the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973.

3. Observance of the Code. The accredited advocates shall comply with the provisions of the Code. Failure thereof shall be considered as professional misconduct and may result in the suspension or cancellation of the accreditation of Advocate with the Agency along with forwarding of a complaint under Chapter VII of the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973 to the concerned Bar

4. Duty to protect the interest of the client. The accredited Advocate shall:

(a) protect the interest of the client, so far as consistent with the duties owed to the court, the Act and rules regulating the professional conduct;

(b) promote and work for the best interest of the client and ensure that the client receives a fair hearing;

(c) use all proper and lawful means to secure the best outcome for the client; and

(d) avoid to put a client under pressure to plead guilty or make an admission against his interest.

5. Duty to act ethically etc. The accredited Advocate shall:

(a) act ethically and maintain his integrity and perform his duties honestly with due dedication and in accordance with law;

(b) not intentionally or recklessly give false or misleading advice to his client; and

(c) not develop an interest adverse to his client, in relation to his duties.

6. Duty to act fairly, impartially and to avoid discrimination.-

The accredited Advocate shall:

(a) treat his client fairly without prejudice;

(b) provide a political and non-partisan advice placing his client's and public interest over personal interest;

(c) treat his client without discrimination and not harass or victimise any person on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, religion, belief or any other factor in discharge of his duties;

(d) accept instructions from any client, provided that he can discharge those instructions effectively having regard to other professional obligations, unless there is some other significant reason why the best interests of the client would not be served; and

(e) provide legal services to the client where he is competent and authorized to do so.

Note: Competence requires such legal knowledge, skill, experience and preparation as is necessary to properly represent the interests of the client. Authorization refers to any requirements of the relevant professional body in relation to provision of legal services.

7. Duty of confidentiality. (1) The accredited Advocate shall keep the information received from the client confidential. The duty to maintain confidentiality shall not cease even after the lapse of his accreditation.

(2) The confidentiality of information received from client is subject to statutory provisions, court order and relevant rules of professional conduct or circumstances where the duty of confidentiality may be overridden.

(3) The information about clients shall be subject to the enhanced confidentiality to ensure that information relating to a client's case cannot be disclosed to accredited Advocate providing legal aid to another client in the same case, where there is an actual or potential conflict of interest between those clients.

(4) The accredited Advocate shall keep and use information in accordance with the prevailing data protection laws.

8. Duty to the Court. The accredited Advocate shall discharge his duties in accordance with the proper and efficient administration of justice and relevant statute.

9. Conflict of interest. The accredited Advocate shall not act for one or more clients if to do so would give rise to an actual or significant risk of a conflict of interest.

10. Acceptance of gifts etc. The accredited Advocate shall not demand, offer or accept any fee, commission, inducement, gratuity, gift, uplift, benefit or other form of compensation, direct or indirect, from the client.

11. Continuity of representation. The accredited Advocate shall:

(a) appear in the case allocated to him on each date of hearing; and

(b) inform the Agency in case of his inability to perform his duties on medical or other plausible ground.

12. Standards of conduct. (1) The accredited Advocate shall:

(a) not do anything that brings the Agency in disrepute;

(b) not use the information acquired in the course of his duties for his or others interests; and

(c) provide satisfactory legal service and adhere to the terms and conditions of accreditation.

(2) The absence of accredited advocate in the case allocated to him on two consecutive dates of hearing, without any reasonable cause, may result in cancellation of his accreditation.

DECLARATION

I have read and understood the Code and agree to abide by its provisions narrated above. I also acknowledge and understand that maintaining confidentiality is an essential condition of my work for the agency. I also acknowledge that in case of violation of any provision of the Act, Rules and Code, Legal professional and other consequences may entail.

Name	
Signature	
Date	
CNIC Number	

SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
PUBLIC PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT"

(MUHAMMAD ASIF BALAL LODHI)
SECRETARY
Government of the Punjab
Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department