What Types of Losses are Reimbursable?

The Client Security Trust Fund covers most situations in which lawyers have taken their client's money or property.

The Fund does not cover losses suffered by a client resulting from the negligence of an attorney in the handling of the case. Such matters may be reported to the Attorney Disciplinary Board of the Iowa Supreme Court. These matters may also be pursued by the client through the filing of a claim with the attorney's malpractice insurance provider, or by a malpractice suit against the attorney in question.

Matters involving a dispute about the amount of a lawyer's charges should be referred to the Iowa State Bar Association for arbitration.

For further information about the Client Security Trust Fund, contact OPR at: (515) 348-4670

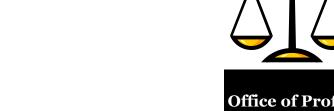
Other Useful Contacts

TO REQUEST AN ETHICS COMPLAINT FORM:

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD (515) 348-4680

FOR HELP WITH A DISPUTE ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF A LAWYER'S CHARGES:

IOWA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION FEE ARBITRATION (515) 243-3179





CLIENT SECURITY TRUST FUND



Office of Professional Regulation

Judicial Branch Building 1111 East Court Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Phone: 515-348-4670 Fax: 515-348-4698

E-mail: client.security@iowacourts.gov

What is the Client Security Trust Fund?

The Client Security Trust Fund was established by the Supreme Court of lowa at the request of The lowa State Bar Association. It provides for reimbursement by the legal profession in general for losses caused to the public in those few cases in which lawyers betray their client's trust and misappropriate funds.

Each lawyer licensed to practice in the state of lowa contributes to the Fund. lowa lawyers believe that the public has a right to hold their profession accountable for certain actions involving dishonest conduct on the part of a lawyer.

The Client Security Commission



The Client Security
Commission is
empowered to examine
lawyer misconduct and
breaches of the Iowa
Rules of Professional
Conduct, and to
generally administer

and operate the Client Security Trust Fund.

The commission consists of five members who are attorneys in Iowa and two residents of Iowa who are not lawyers, all of whom are appointed by the Supreme Court.

Filing a Claim for Reimbursement

Forms for filing a claim may be obtained from:

Client Security Commission 1111 East Court Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319 (515) 348-4670

by email request to: client.security@iowacourts.gov

or at the Client Security Commission's web page:

https://www.iowacourts.gov/opr/ about-opr/client-security-commission/

It is not necessary to hire a lawyer to help you make the claim.

There is no fee to submit a claim to the Client Security Trust Fund.

Fill out the form as completely as possible and return it as directed. You should keep a copy of the completed form for your records. If you attach evidence or documents to the form when you send it to the commission, be sure to keep copies of those for your files.

Except for unusual or extenuating circumstances, claims made to the commission must be filed within one year after you discover the loss.

After the claim is filed..

The staff of the Client Security
Commission will investigate each case
and claim filed. The staff may contact the
person who filed the claim for more
information and will contact the lawyer
against whom the complaint has been
filed.

If the claim is found to be eligible for reimbursement under the rules, the claim will be presented to the commission for consideration and decision.

If a claim is determined not to be reimbursable, no further action or investigation will be taken, but a report is made to the commission.

The Client Security Commission sends a written explanation of its decision to each person who makes an application or claim for reimbursement. Payment of a claim is subject to the Iowa Supreme Court Rules.

If a claim is approved, the person will be notified of the amount of money to be reimbursed. The commission determines the amount of any payment. The maximum which any one client may recover is established by Iowa Supreme Court Rules.