
It is not necessary to have a lawyer submit a claim or represent a claimant. If a lawyer does assist with the presentation of a claim, the lawyer shall not accept any payment for assisting a claimant unless such payment has been approved by the Board.

How is a claim filed?

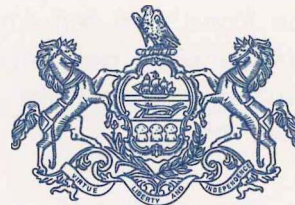
A claim form may be downloaded from the Fund's website or may be requested by contacting the Fund. A claimant must either have previously filed a corresponding disciplinary complaint or must simultaneously file a corresponding disciplinary complaint. The disciplinary complaint form is also available on the Fund's website.

To obtain a claim form or for additional information, please contact:

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
PA Lawyers Fund for Client Security
P.O. Box 62585
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2585
TELEPHONE: (717) 231-9510
(800) 962-4618
FAX: (717) 231-9511
EMAIL: admin@palawfund.com
WEBSITE: www.palawfund.com

Published as a public service by
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security

This publication has not been submitted to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for prior review.



PENNSYLVANIA LAWYERS FUND FOR CLIENT SECURITY

Mission Statement

The mission of the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security is to reimburse victims of attorney dishonesty in the practice of law; to preserve the integrity and protect the good name of the legal profession; and, to promote public confidence in the legal system and the administration of justice in Pennsylvania.

What is the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security?

The Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security is a fund established by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to reimburse clients who have suffered a loss of money or other property as a result of the dishonest conduct of their attorneys. The Fund is a remedy for clients who cannot reasonably get reimbursement from other sources, such as from insurance or from the attorney involved.

Why was the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security established?

The legal profession depends upon the trust of the clients. In those cases in which lawyers betray that trust and misappropriate client funds, it is important that the profession's reputation for honesty be maintained and protected.

How is the Fund financed?

The financial resources for the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security are provided by the members of the Pennsylvania Bar through an annual fee paid by all active Pennsylvania lawyers. The Fund does not receive any tax dollars.

Who administers the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security?

The Fund operates under the direction of a Board appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The Board is comprised of five members of the Pennsylvania Bar and two non-lawyer public members. All serve without compensation as a public service.

What kinds of losses are covered?

The Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security covers most situations in which lawyers have stolen or otherwise misappropriated clients' money or other property which has been entrusted to them, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per claimant, with an aggregate maximum for all claims against any single attorney of \$1 million. The attorney in question must have been a Pennsylvania lawyer and must have served the client as an attorney, in a fiduciary capacity (such as an administrator, executor, trustee of an express trust, guardian or conservator), or as an escrow agent arising from an attorney-client relationship.

Awards made by the Board are a matter of grace, not right.

The Fund does not cover losses resulting from the malpractice or negligence of lawyers. The Fund's Board does not have the authority to discipline attorneys for misconduct or to determine legal malpractice claims. Such matters should be reported to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania or may be the subject of civil lawsuits. The Fund does not resolve what the Board determines to be a legitimate fee dispute.

What happens when a claim is filed?

Each claim will be reviewed to determine eligibility for reimbursement. The Board will determine the merit of all claims, and where appropriate, the amount of the reimbursement. In some cases, hearings may be required.
