

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)	
)	
AMENDING ARIZONA CODE OF)	Administrative Order
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION §)	No. 2025 - <u>184</u>
7-210: LEGAL PARAPROFESSIONAL)	(Affecting Administrative Order
)	No. 2024-161)
_____)	

Proposed amendments to the above-captioned section of the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (“ACJA”) came before the Arizona Judicial Council on October 23, 2025 and were approved and recommended for adoption.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the amendments to ACJA § 7-210 as indicated on the attached document are adopted. All other provisions of § 7-210 remain unchanged and in effect

Dated this 29th day of October, 2025.

ANN A. SCOTT TIMMER
Chief Justice

ARIZONA CODE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
Part 7: Administrative Office of the Courts
Chapter 2: Certification and Licensing Programs
Section 7-210: Legal Paraprofessional
(deleted text shown in ~~strikethrough~~; new text underlined)

A. Definitions. In addition to the definitions in ACJA § 7-201(A), the following definitions apply to this section:

* * *

“Legal Master’s degree” means an advanced degree from an American Bar Association accredited law school that may include but is not limited to Master of Legal Studies (MLS), Master of Studies in Law (MSL), Master of Jurisprudence(MJ), Juris Master (JM), and Master of Human Resources and Employment Law (MHREL).

* * *

B. through D. [No changes]

E. Licensure. In addition to the provisions of ACJA § 7-201(E), the following requirements apply:

1. License Required. ~~A person~~ An individual must not represent that ~~the person is~~ they are a legal paraprofessional, or ~~is~~ are authorized to provide legal services, without holding a valid license issued in compliance with this section in one or more of the following practice areas:

- a. ~~F~~family law;
- b. ~~C~~civil;
- c. ~~C~~criminal law;
- d. ~~A~~administrative law;
- e. ~~J~~juvenile law; or
- f. probate law.

2. through 5. [No changes]

6. Education or Experience Requirement. The applicant must also have one of the following:

- a. An associate-level degree in paralegal studies; an associate-level, bachelor's, or advanced degree in any subject plus a certificate in paralegal studies approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) and satisfying the minimum content requirements of this provision; or an associate-level, bachelor's, or advanced degree in any subject plus the successful completion of a minimum of 24 semester units, or the clock hour equivalent, in legal specialization courses satisfying the minimum content requirements of this provision taken at one or more institutions accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). If a certificate in paralegal studies does not satisfy the following minimum content requirements, the certificate may be supplemented by successfully completing the missing credit hours at one or more institutions offering an ABA-approved certificate of paralegal studies or accredited by CHEA. The following minimum content requirements for a certificate in paralegal studies or the 24 semester units of legal specialization courses need not be completed as part of a degree program but must include at least:
- (1) For family law: 3 credit hours in family law, 6 credit hours in civil procedure, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (2) For civil law: 6 credit hours in civil procedure, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (3) For criminal law: 3 credit hours in criminal law, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (4) For administrative law: 3 credit hours in administrative law, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (5) For juvenile law: 3 credit hours in dependency law or completion of the Attorney General's Office internal employee dependency training program for potential Legal Paraprofessionals employed by the Attorney General's office, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (6) For probate law: 3 credit hours covering estate planning, probate administration, guardianship, and conservatorship; 3 credit hours in evidence; and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - ~~(6)~~ For all practice areas:
 - (a) A minimum of 3 credit hours in professional responsibility;
 - (b) A minimum of 120 hours or 3 credit hours of experiential learning, supervised by a licensed attorney or legal paraprofessional, that includes content on advocacy; and
 - (c) One (1) year of substantive law-related experience under the supervision of a lawyer or legal paraprofessional in the area of practice in which licensure is sought.
- b. A bachelor's degree in law from an accredited college or university and approved by the Arizona Judicial Council, including a minimum of:
- (1) For family law: 3 credit hours in family law, 6 credit hours in civil procedure, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (2) For civil law: 6 credit hours in civil procedure, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3

- credit hours of legal research and writing.
- (3) For criminal law: 3 credit hours in criminal law, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (4) For administrative law: 3 credit hours in administrative law, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (5) For juvenile law: 3 credit hours in dependency law or completion of the Attorney General's Office internal employee dependency training program for potential legal paraprofessionals employed by the Attorney General's office, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (6) For probate law: 3 credit hours covering estate planning, probate administration, guardianship, and conservatorship; 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (67) For all practice areas, a minimum of 3 credit hours in professional responsibility and a minimum of 120 hours or 3 credit hours of experiential learning, supervised by a licensed attorney or legal paraprofessional, that includes content on advocacy.
- c. [No changes]
- d. A ~~Master of Legal Studies (MLS)~~ Legal Master's degree from an American Bar Association accredited law school including completion of at least:
- (1) For family law: 3 credit hours in family law, 6 credit hours in civil procedure, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (2) For civil law: 6 credit hours in civil procedure, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (3) For criminal law: 3 credit hours in criminal law, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (4) For administrative law: 3 credit hours in administrative law, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (5) For juvenile law: 3 credit hours in dependency law or completion of the Attorney General's Office internal employee dependency training program for potential legal paraprofessionals employed by the Attorney General's office, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (6) For probate law: 3 credit hours covering estate planning, probate administration, guardianship, and conservatorship; 3 credit hours in evidence; and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
 - (67) For all practice areas, a minimum of 3 credit hours in professional responsibility and a minimum of 120 hours or 3 credit hours of experiential learning, supervised by a licensed attorney or legal paraprofessional, that includes content on advocacy.
- e. A Juris Doctor (JD) degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association, or the foreign equivalent of a JD from a degree granting institution and a Master of Laws (LLM) degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association, that in either case included:

- (1) For family law: 3 credit hours in family law, 6 credit hours in civil procedure, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
- (2) For civil law: 6 credit hours in civil procedure, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
- (3) For criminal law: 3 credit hours in criminal law, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
- (4) For administrative law: 3 credit hours in administrative law, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
- (5) For juvenile law: 3 credit hours in dependency law or completion of the Attorney General's Office internal employee dependency training program for potential legal paraprofessionals employed by the Attorney General's office, 3 credit hours in evidence, and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
- (6) For probate law: 3 credit hours covering estate planning, probate administration, guardianship, and conservatorship; 3 credit hours in evidence; and 3 credit hours of legal research and writing.
- ~~(6)~~ For all practice areas, a minimum of 3 credit hours in professional responsibility.

f. In lieu of the educational requirements in (E)(6)(a) through (e), ~~has completed~~ completion of 7 years of full-time, substantive, law-related experience within the 10 years preceding application in each practice area in which the applicant seeks licensure.

7. through 8. [No changes]

F. Conduct of Licensees.

1. Authorized Services. A licensed legal paraprofessional may provide legal services in the areas of practice for which they are licensed as follows:

a. [No changes]

b. Scope of Practice. A legal paraprofessional's authorization to provide legal services in a practice area is as follows:

(1) Family Law. Legal paraprofessionals licensed in family law may ~~render~~ provide authorized services in:

(a) [No changes]

(b) Adoption matters, to assist clients in all aspects of the adoption process, if the legal paraprofessional has met additional qualifications as established by the supreme court.

(c) Matters involving orders of protection under A.R.S. §§ 13-3601 and -3602 and injunctions against harassment under A.R.S. §§ 12-1809 and -1810 if the orders or injunctions are or may be related to or incorporated in a Family Law matter.

(2) through (5) [No changes]

(6) Probate Law. Legal paraprofessionals licensed in probate law may provide authorized services:

- (a) to prepare wills, but a legal paraprofessional must not:
 - (i) prepare a will involving an estate valued over the current federal estate tax amount; or
 - (ii) prepare a will that includes a testamentary trust or exercises a general or special power of appointment.
- (b) to prepare and record beneficiary deeds.
- (c) to draft powers of attorney, living wills, and health care directives, including mental health directives.
- (d) in probate administration if there has been no written objection filed with the court under Rule of Probate Procedure 15, but a legal paraprofessional must not:
 - (i) administer an estate that is required to file an IRS Form 706;
 - (ii) administer an estate that includes a testamentary trust;
 - (iii) administer an intestate estate with heirs who are special needs or disabled adults; or
 - (iv) administer an estate involving a business.
- (e) in a Title 14 guardianship or conservatorship if there is no written objection filed under Rule of Probate Procedure 15, but a legal paraprofessional must not provide authorized services:
 - (i) in a conservatorship in which the inventory, account, or bond requirements are waived;
 - (ii) when a ward or protected person has a business ownership interest;
 - (iii) in a conservatorship in which a protected person is receiving state or federal needs-based government benefits; or
 - (iv) when a ward or protected person is a party in a pending divorce, separation, or annulment proceeding.

2. Code of Conduct. Each legal paraprofessional must abide by ~~to~~ the code of conduct in ~~subsection~~-(J).

3. through 5. [No changes]

G. through K. [No changes]