

STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
AMENDMENTS TO
MAINE RULES FOR THE MAINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LAWYERS

2023 Me. Rules 06

Effective: September 28, 2023

All of the Justices concurring therein, the following amendments to the Maine Rules for the Assistance Program for Lawyers are adopted to be effective on the date indicated above. The specific amendments are stated below. To aid in the understanding of each amendment, an Advisory Note appears after the text of each amendment. The Advisory Note states the reason for recommending the amendment, but the Advisory Note is not part of the amendment adopted by the Court.

1. The title of the Maine Rules for the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers is amended to read as follows:

**MAINE RULES FOR THE MAINE ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR LAWYERS AND JUDGES**

Advisory Note – September 2023

The title is amended to provide the full name of the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers *and Judges*.

2. The preamble of the Maine Rules for the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers and Judges is amended to read as follows:

PREAMBLE

The Supreme Judicial Court recognizes that a wide range of influences can detrimentally affect the performance of a lawyer or judge. Prominent among such influences are the effects of chemical dependence or mental conditions that result from disease, disorder, trauma or other infirmity that impair the ability of a lawyer or judge to practice or serve. Lawyer or judge impairment is detrimental to the interests of clients, litigants, our legal system and the general

public. The vast majority of states have responded to the issue of lawyer impairment by creating funded lawyer assistance programs as contemplated by this Rule, acknowledging the principle that every member of the bar has an obligation to the public to participate in an appropriate response to lawyer or judge impairment. The Court finds that the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers and Judges is an appropriate method for addressing the issue of lawyer or judge impairment and that the program will promote the integrity of the legal profession and will thereby directly benefit the people of Maine.

The Court hereby adopts these rules establishing a Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers and Judges.

Advisory Note – September 2023

The preamble is amended to provide the full name of the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers *and Judges*.

3. Rule 1 of the Maine Rules for the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers and Judges is amended to read as follows:

RULE 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF MAINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LAWYERS AND JUDGES (MAP)

A. Establishment: There is hereby established a state-wide lawyer assistance program to be known as Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers and Judges (or “MAP”) which shall provide immediate and continuing help to lawyers and judges (hereinafter “Members of the legal profession”) and University of Maine School of Law students and applicants for admission to the Bar of the State of Maine (hereinafter “students/applicants”) who suffer from the effects of chemical dependency or mental conditions that result from disease, disorder, trauma or other infirmity and that impair their ability to practice law or serve in a judicial capacity.

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Advisory Note – September 2023

Rule 1 is amended to provide the full name of the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers *and Judges*.

Dated: September 28, 2023

FOR THE COURT,*

_____/s/_____
VALERIE STANFILL
Chief Justice

ANDREW M. MEAD
JOSEPH M. JABAR
ANDREW M. HORTON
CATHERINE R. CONNORS
RICK E. LAWRENCE
WAYNE R. DOUGLAS
Associate Justices

* This Rule Amendment Order was approved after conference of the Court, all Justices concurring therein.