

RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

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Rule 5.4. Professional Independence of a Lawyer

- (a) A lawyer or law firm shall not share legal fees with a nonlawyer, except that:
- (1) an agreement by a lawyer with the lawyer's firm, partner, or associate may provide for the payment of money, over a reasonable period of time after the lawyer's death, to the lawyer's estate or to one or more specified persons;
 - (2) a lawyer who purchases the practice of a deceased, disabled, or disappeared lawyer may, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 1.17, pay to the estate or other representative of that lawyer the agreed upon purchase price; ~~and~~
 - (3) a lawyer or law firm may include nonlawyer employees in a compensation or retirement plan, even though the plan is based in whole or in part on a profit-sharing arrangement; ~~and~~
 - (4) a lawyer may share court-approved legal fees with a nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide civil legal services without charge to the indigent and which employed, retained or referred employment of the lawyer in the matter.

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