

Digest of Ethics Advisory Panel
Opinion #91-17, Request #125
Issue May 23, 1991

An attorney seeks Panel advice as to whether the attorney's proposed advertisement for a divorce booklet the attorney has prepared should contain a Rhode Island Rule of Professional Conduct 7.4 disclaimer.

The Panel takes the position that the advertisement for the booklet should include the following Rule 7.4 disclaimer:

"Rhode Island does not have a procedure for certification or recognition of specialization by lawyers."

The Panel bases its position on the following language of Rule 7.4: "A lawyer may not . . . indicate that his or her practice is limited to or concentrated in particular fields of law unless, as part of the same communication, the lawyer also indicates that Rhode Island does not have a procedure for certification or recognition of specialization by lawyers." The Panel is of the opinion that the title of the booklet contained in its proposed advertisement implies that the attorney's practice is limited to or concentrated in the particular field of domestic relations, thus warranting inclusion of the above stated disclaimer in the advertisement.

Ethics Advisory Panel advice is protective in nature. There is no requirement that an attorney abide by a Panel opinion, but if he or she does, he or she is fully protected from any charge of impropriety.