

ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL  
OPINION # 95-19, Request # 581  
Issued March 23, 1995

The inquiring attorney represented a client in a matter where a money judgment was rendered against her. Plaintiff's counsel indicated to the inquiring attorney that he/she would pursue the matter to collect the amount owed. Subsequently, the inquiring attorney's client changed addresses. The inquiring attorney asks whether he/she is under an obligation to offer to furnish the client's new address to plaintiff's counsel.

Rule 1.6 entitled " Confidentiality of Information" states the following:

(a) A lawyer shall not reveal information relating to representation of a client unless the client consents after consultation, except for disclosures that are impliedly authorized in order to carry out the representation, and except as stated in paragraph (b).

In addition, the inquiring attorney should be mindful of Rule 3.4 entitled: Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel." That Rule states in pertinent part: A lawyer shall not:

(a) unlawfully obstruct another party's access to evidence or unlawfully alter, destroy or conceal a document or other material having potential evidentiary value. A lawyer shall not counsel or assist another person to do any such act; . . .

The Panel gathers from the facts provided that the plaintiff's counsel has not asked the inquiring attorney for the address. If this is the case, the Panel opines that the inquiring attorney does not have to volunteer said information to plaintiff's counsel because the information is protected under Rule 1.6. The inquiring attorney should keep in mind his/her obligations pursuant to Rule 3.4 if plaintiff's counsel does inquire about the client's address.