

# LIMITED SCOPE RULE CHANGES

Effective July 1, 2015

## RULE CHANGES

- [Rule 1-321](#) (Service of Pleadings and Papers other than Original Pleadings)
- [Rule 1-324](#) (Notification of Orders, Rulings, and Court Proceedings)
- [Rule 2-131](#) (Appearance)
- [Rule 3-131](#) (Appearance)
- [Rule 2-132](#) (Striking of Attorney's Appearance)
- [Rule 3-132](#) (Striking of Attorney's Appearance)
- [Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.2](#) (Scope of Representation and Allocation of Authority Between Client and Lawyer)

## FEATURES OF THE NEW RULES

- Right client, right case. Limited scope representation is primarily for educated clients able to handle many aspects of the case on their own.
- Informed consent. MRPC 1.2 (c)(Comment 8) provides the lawyer must fully inform the client of the extent and limits of the representation under the agreement.
- Scope. A list of the types of discrete services that can be provided is listed in MRPC 1.2 (c)(Comment 8). New to these rules is the opportunity to enter a limited appearance in court proceeding.
- Limited appearance in court. The lawyer can enter a limited appearance in a "discrete matter" (confined to one issue) or "judicial proceeding" (confined to one or more court events). See Rules 2-131 and 3-131. The notice of appearance must be accompanied by [an "acknowledgement" signed by the client](#).
- Withdrawal without court action. Once the issue or proceeding for which the attorney entered a limited appearance has been completed, the attorney may withdraw by filing a notice. No court action is required.
- Court notices. When an attorney enters a limited appearance, he or she will receive all court notices on behalf of the client and must forward them to the client for their review and/or action. Court information systems do not currently permit notice to both attorney and client (it is either/or) so the attorney must forward notices to the client until the attorney's appearance is withdrawn. This is to ensure the client, who may be responsible for the other aspects of litigation, has the proper notice.

## MORE INFORMATION

- ABA Unbundling Resource Center:  
[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/delivery\\_legal\\_services/resources.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/delivery_legal_services/resources.html)
- Maryland Access to Justice Commission White Paper:  
<http://mdcourts.gov/mdatjc/pdfs/o8climitedscopewhitepaper.pdf>
- E-lawyering (ABA Law Practice Management Section):  
<http://www.elawyering.com>