

Changes to the Ethics and SAMI Requirement

On April 3, 2013, the Montana Supreme Court issued an order amending the CLE Rules to eliminate the 3-year ethics reporting cycle and requiring that all Montana attorneys report 2.0 hours of instruction in legal ethics/professionalism every year.

The change is effective beginning with the reporting year that runs April 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014.

All attorneys will begin the 2013-2014 reporting year with a balance of 0.00 ethics credits. Any ethics credits earned before this year were already applied to meet the previous 3-year ethics reporting cycle.

Attorneys may carry forward ethics credits from “live” or “interactive” programs to the next two reporting years once the 15-credit yearly requirement has been met.

For example, if an attorney reports 9 general credits and 6 “live” ethics credits for a total of 15 credits for the year, there would be no carry-over of general or ethics credits. But if he attended an additional seminar giving 4 “live” ethics credits, those would carry over to the next year.