

§ 776.33

or to provide legal assistance to an individual, has, for those purposes, an attorney-client relationship with that individual.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.33 Client under a disability.

(a) *Client under a disability:* (1) When a client's ability to make adequately considered decisions in connection with the representation is impaired, whether because of minority, mental disability, or for some other reason, the covered attorney shall, as far as reasonably possible, maintain a normal attorney-client relationship with the client.

(2) A covered attorney may seek the appointment of a guardian or take other protective action with respect to a client only when the covered attorney reasonably believes that the client cannot adequately act in the client's own interest.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.34 Safekeeping property.

(a) *Safekeeping property.* Covered USG attorneys shall not normally hold or safeguard property of a client or third persons in connection with representational duties. See § 776.27 of this part.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.35 Declining or terminating representation.

(a) *Declining or terminating representation:* (1) Except as stated in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, a covered attorney shall not represent a client or, when representation has commenced, shall seek to withdraw from the representation of a client if:

(i) The representation will result in violation of the Rules contained in this subpart or other law or regulation;

(ii) The covered attorney's physical or mental condition materially impairs his or her ability to represent the client; or

(iii) The covered attorney is dismissed by the client.

(2) Except as stated in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, a covered attorney may seek to withdraw from representing a client if withdrawal can be accomplished without material adverse effect on the interests of the client, or if:

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(i) The client persists in a course of action involving the covered attorney's services that the covered attorney reasonably believes is criminal or fraudulent;

(ii) The client has used the covered attorney's services to perpetrate a crime or fraud;

(iii) The client insists upon pursuing an objective that the covered attorney considers repugnant or imprudent;

(iv) In the case of covered non-USG attorneys, the representation will result in an unreasonable financial burden on the attorney or has been rendered unreasonably difficult by the client; or

(v) Other good cause for withdrawal exists.

(3) When ordered to do so by a tribunal or other competent authority, a covered attorney shall continue representation notwithstanding good cause for terminating the representation.

(4) Upon termination of representation, a covered attorney shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for assignment or employment of other counsel, and surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled and, where a non-USG attorney provided representation, refunding any advance payment of fee that has not been earned. The covered attorney may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by law.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.36 Prohibited sexual relations.

(a) *Prohibited sexual relations:* (1) A covered attorney shall not have sexual relations with a current client. A covered attorney shall not require, demand, or solicit sexual relations with a client incident to any professional representation.

(2) A covered attorney shall not engage in sexual relations with another attorney currently representing a party whose interests are adverse to those of a client currently represented by the covered attorney.

(3) A covered attorney shall not engage in sexual relations with a judge