

Ethics Alert:

Paralegals work under the supervision of attorneys, except in very limited statutorily sanctioned situations. All research results and memoranda should be submitted to an attorney before they are provided to a client.

Paralegals have a large role in the efficiency of law firms. Their responsibilities have gradually increased over the years and they are now responsible for duties that were once only handled by an attorney. They are able to assist the attorney with all types of legal work and essentially have the same duties as an attorney.

The amount of research and the type of assignments paralegals perform vary, For example:

- In some offices, paralegals undertake all of the research in preparation for filing of motion but attorney drafts the motions

OR

- Paralegals may research and prepare rough drafts of motions

Overall, no matter the law office you are working for, it is to be expected to be work professionally and in a timely fashion. As a paralegal it is very important to maintain communication with your attorney, making sure that attorney knows every research or process being done in a case is a **MUST**.

A paralegal must avoid the unauthorized practice of law therefore, they cannot give legal advice, accept a case, or represent a client in court. Paralegals do work under the watchful eye of the attorney and play a huge role in the communication between the lawyer and the client.

Why is it important?

I chose this ethic alert because I feel like we need to know the importance of supervision of an attorney to a paralegal and how despite difference in duties assigned, being supervised is essential since a paralegal cannot practice law without a license.

Resources:

<https://kparalegalschools.com/paralegal-can/>

Law book