



Model Rule on Cash Transactions

Adopted by the Council of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada September 11, 2004;
amended October 19, 2018.

Definitions

“**cash**” means coins referred to in section 7 of the *Currency Act*, notes issued by the Bank of Canada pursuant to the *Bank of Canada Act* that are intended for circulation in Canada and coins or bank notes of countries other than Canada;

“**disbursements**” means amounts paid or required to be paid to a third party by the lawyer or the lawyer’s firm on a client’s behalf in connection with the provision of legal services to the client by the lawyer or the lawyer’s firm which will be reimbursed by the client;

“**expenses**” means costs incurred by a lawyer or law firm in connection with the provision of legal services to a client which will be reimbursed by the client including such items as photocopying, travel, courier/postage, and paralegal costs;

“**financial institution**” means

- (a) a bank that is regulated by the *Bank Act*,
- (b) an authorized foreign bank within the meaning of section 2 of the *Bank Act* in respect of its business in Canada,
- (c) cooperative credit society, savings and credit union or caisse populaire that is regulated by a provincial or territorial Act,
- (d) an association that is regulated by the *Cooperative Credit Associations Act* (Canada),
- (e) a financial services cooperative,
- (f) a credit union central,
- (g) a company that is regulated by the *Trust and Loan Companies Act* (Canada),
- (h) a trust company or loan company that is regulated by a provincial or territorial Act,
- (i) a department or an entity that is an agent of Her Majesty in right of Canada or of a province or territory when it accepts deposit liabilities in the course of providing financial services to the public, or
- (j) a subsidiary of the financial institution whose financial statements are consolidated with those of the financial institution.

“**financial services cooperative**” means a financial services cooperative that is regulated by *An Act respecting financial services cooperatives, CQLR, c. C-67.3*, or *An Act respecting the Mouvement Desjardins, S.Q. 2000, c.77*, other than a caisse populaire.

“**funds**” means cash, currency, securities and negotiable instruments or other financial instruments that indicate the person’s title or right to or interest in them;

“**professional fees**” means amounts billed or to be billed to a client for legal services provided or to be provided to the client by the lawyer or the lawyer’s firm;

“**public body**” means

- (a) a department or agent of Her Majesty in right of Canada or of a province or territory,
- (b) an incorporated city, town, village, metropolitan authority, township, district, county, rural municipality or other incorporated municipal body in Canada or an agent in Canada of any of them,
- (c) a local board of a municipality incorporated by or under an Act of a province or territory of Canada including any local board as defined in the *Municipal Act* (Ontario) [or equivalent legislation] or similar body incorporated under the law of another province or territory,
- (d) an organization that operates a public hospital authority and that is designated by the Minister of National Revenue as a hospital under the *Excise Tax Act* (Canada) or an agent of the organization,
- (e) a body incorporated by or under an Act of a province or territory of Canada for a public purpose, or
- (f) a subsidiary of a public body whose financial statements are consolidated with those of the public body.

1. A lawyer must not receive or accept cash in an aggregate amount greater than \$7,500 Canadian in respect of any one client matter.
2. For the purposes of this rule, when a lawyer receives or accepts cash in a foreign currency the lawyer will be deemed to have received or accepted the cash converted into Canadian dollars at
 - (a) the official conversion rate of the Bank of Canada for the foreign currency as published in the Bank of Canada’s Daily Noon Rates that is in effect at the time the lawyer receives or accepts the cash, or
 - (b) if the day on which the lawyer receives or accepts cash is a holiday, the official conversion rate of the Bank of Canada in effect on the most recent business day preceding the day on which the lawyer receives or accepts the cash.
3. Section 1 applies when a lawyer engages on behalf of a client or gives instructions on behalf of a client in respect of the following activities:
 - (a) receiving or paying funds;
 - (b) purchasing or selling securities, real properties or business assets or entities;
 - (c) transferring funds by any means.

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4. Despite section 3, section 1 does not apply when the lawyer receives cash in connection with the provision of legal services by the lawyer or the lawyer's firm
- from a financial institution or public body,
 - from a peace officer, law enforcement agency or other agent of the Crown acting in his or her official capacity,
 - to pay a fine, penalty, or bail, or
 - for professional fees, disbursements, or expenses, provided that any refund out of such receipts is also made in cash.

Model Rule on Recordkeeping Requirements for Cash Transactions

“**cash**” means coins referred to in section 7 of the *Currency Act*, notes issued by the Bank of Canada pursuant to the *Bank of Canada Act* that are intended for circulation in Canada and coins or bank notes of countries other than Canada;

“**money**” includes cash, cheques, drafts, credit card sales slips, post office orders and express and bank money orders.

- Every lawyer, in addition to existing financial recordkeeping requirements to record all money and other property received and disbursed in connection with the lawyer's practice, shall maintain
 - a book of original entry identifying the method by which money is received in trust for a client, and
 - a book of original entry showing the method by which money, other than money received in trust for a client, is received.
- Every lawyer who receives cash for a client shall maintain, in addition to existing financial recordkeeping requirements, a book of duplicate receipts, with each receipt identifying the date on which cash is received, the person from whom cash is received, the amount of cash received, the client for whom cash is received, any file number in respect of which cash is received and containing the signature authorized by the lawyer who receives cash and of the person from whom cash is received.
- The financial records described in paragraphs 1 and 2 may be entered and posted by hand or by mechanical or electronic means, but if the records are entered and posted by hand, they shall be entered and posted in ink.
- The financial records described in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be entered and posted so as to be current at all times.
- A lawyer shall keep the financial records described in paragraphs 1 and 2 for at least the six year period immediately preceding the lawyer's most recent fiscal year end. [This paragraph does not apply to lawyers in Québec as the Barreau du Québec requires that such records be retained without any limitation.]