

PMBR FAQs

What is PMBR?

PMBR stands for “proactive management-based regulation.” The Office of Disciplinary Counsel’s free, online, on-demand PMBR course will assist attorneys in developing ethical infrastructures to improve the delivery of legal services and client relations and assist in preventing violations of the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct.

Am I required to complete the PMBR course for the 2023-2025 registration biennium?

No. PMBR does not go into effect until January 1, 2025. The PMBR course will not be available until early 2025.

What are the “PMBR requirements?”

Beginning with the 2025-2027 registration biennium, attorneys who are engaged in the private practice of law (as defined in amended Gov.Bar R. VI(1)(B)) must either maintain professional liability insurance or complete the PMBR course.

Where can I find the PMBR rule language?

The Supreme Court’s amendments to Gov.Bar R. V and Gov.Bar R. VI may be found at the following link: [https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/ruleamendments/documents/PMBR%20\(As%20Adopted\).pdf](https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/ruleamendments/documents/PMBR%20(As%20Adopted).pdf)

When will the PMBR requirements go into effect?

The effective date is January 1, 2025. Beginning with the 2025-2027 registration biennium, attorneys who are engaged in the private practice of law (as defined in amended Gov.Bar R. VI(1)(B)) must either maintain professional liability insurance or complete the PMBR course.

How often will I have to take the PMBR course?

For every registration biennium beginning with 2025-2027, attorneys who are engaged in the private practice of law (as defined in amended Gov.Bar R. VI(1)(B)) must either maintain professional liability insurance or complete the PMBR course.

If I purchase professional liability insurance, must I still complete the PMBR course?

No. An attorney who purchases professional liability insurance does not have to complete the PMBR course; however, the attorney must provide proof of insurance to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

When will the PMBR course be available?

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel will offer the course online and on-demand in early 2025. The PMBR course will be approximately three hours and available for CLE credit.

How much will the PMBR course cost?

The PMBR course will be free for all attorneys admitted to the practice of law in Ohio.

Will the PMBR course be available for all attorneys?

Yes, all attorneys admitted to the practice of law in Ohio will be able to take the PMBR course for CLE credit.

Can I change my answers to the PMBR questions after registering?

Yes, you may change your answers through the PMBR tab in your attorney portal.

If I register as active, but no longer practice law, do the PMBR requirements apply?

Only active attorneys who are “engaged in the private practice of law” must satisfy the PMBR requirements. Under amended Gov.Bar R. VI(1)(B)(5), attorneys who are “no longer practicing law in any capacity” are not “engaged in the private practice of law.”

What if my only clients are family members?

Attorneys who only perform legal work for family members are “engaged in the private practice of law” for purposes of amended Gov.Bar R. VI(1)(B)(5). Accordingly, these attorneys must satisfy the PMBR requirements.

What if I work as in-house counsel but am not registered as a corporate counsel attorney?

Attorneys registered as active who are “employed by an organizational client or governmental entity” and “[do] not represent clients outside that capacity” are not “engaged in the private practice of law” and therefore not subject to the PMBR requirements. *See* amended Gov.Bar R. VI(1)(B)(2).

What if I am a full-time judge or magistrate?

Full-time judges and magistrates are not “engaged in the private practice of law” and therefore not subject to the PMBR requirements. *See* amended Gov.Bar R. VI(1)(B)(2).

What if I am a part-time judge or magistrate who maintains a private law practice on the side?

Part-time judges and magistrates who also represent clients in their own practice are “engaged in the private practice of law” for purposes of amended Gov.Bar R. VI(1)(B)(5). Accordingly, these attorneys must satisfy the PMBR requirements.

What if I have additional questions regarding PMBR?

Please direct all PMBR inquiries to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel via email to: PMBR@odc.ohio.gov or via phone at: (614) 387-9700.