

BEING AN LJAP PEER MONITOR

A peer monitor's *only* role is to supervise the monitoree in accordance with the monitoring agreement and report to the assigned LJAP case monitor as to whether the monitoree is or is not in compliance. It is not the peer monitor's role to serve as a counselor, sponsor, or treatment provider for the monitored attorney.

The monitoring agreement provides all the particulars about what is required of the monitoree and will be sent to the peer monitor once the release of information and monitoring agreement have both been signed. Those same requirements provide a road map to the peer monitor about expectations and responsibilities.

What a peer monitor must do:

- Meet face to face with the monitoree as frequently as the agreement provides
- Submit a monthly report to the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program staff
- Report all incidents of non-compliance immediately
- Maintain confidentiality

What a peer monitor should do:

- Be clear with the monitoree about expectations
- Be consistent with expectations, consequences, and reporting
- Inform the monitoree when the peer monitor is attending the same 12-Step meeting

What a peer monitor can do:

- When necessary, approve a telephone contact in lieu of an in-person contact
- If concerned about the monitoree's abstinence contact the monitoree's LJAP case monitor

What a peer monitor CANNOT do:

- Act as the 12-Step recovery program sponsor for the monitoree
- Be responsible for the monitoree's recovery or compliance
- Enable the monitoree to continue in self-defeating behavior
- Represent the monitoree in any capacity
- Profit from the monitoring relationship in any way

QUALIFICATIONS FOR SERVING AS A PEER MONITOR

In order to be qualified to serve as a peer monitor, he or she should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Have no disciplinary sanctions during the past two years
- Be supportive of the LJAP Program and represent the program in a positive light
- Complete the peer monitor training course
- If the peer monitor is recovering from an addiction, other compulsive disorder, or an emotional or mental illness, they should have at least two years of continuous uninterrupted recovery

PEER MONITORING TRAINING CURRICULUM

Each peer monitor needs to complete the approved training course before monitoring can begin. Training can be done online by following the following link and taking the post-test:

http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/ljap/monitoring_only

Please watch the entire video and take the post test, the video is approximately 90 minutes. Test submissions will be sent directly to LJAP at which point the new peer monitor will be added to the active list of volunteers.

APPOINTING PEER MONITORS TO PARTICULAR CASES

To optimize the effectiveness of all peer monitor/monitoree relationships, every effort will be made to appropriately “match” the peer monitors with the monitoree. In making this case-by-case determination, the following criteria will be considered whenever possible:

- **Gender**
- **Age**
- **Recovery**

In appointing peer monitors, each case should be closely scrutinized for potential conflicts. Any past or current relationship with a monitoree that would interfere with the ability of the peer monitor to honestly and ethically perform his or her duties should disqualify a peer monitor from serving in that case.

PEER MONITOR REPORTING

Sample forms for monthly reporting will be provided. These can be faxed, mailed, or e-mailed to the LJAP staff and should be sent within in a week of meeting with the monitoree.

While all incidents of non-compliance on the part of the monitoree should be reported, not every incident of non-compliance will justify discontinuation of the monitoring arrangement. It is not the responsibility of the peer monitor to determine what sanction or consequence will be imposed as a result of any instance of non-compliance. Whenever non-compliance is reported, the peer monitor should consult with the Lawyers and Judges Assistance staff about what steps should be taken, if any.

REMOVING PEER MONITORS FROM PROGRAM

There may be circumstances where it is appropriate for a peer monitor to be removed from performing that function with regard to a particular monitoree. Where appropriate, the Program Director of the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program has the authority to remove the peer monitor.

Examples of circumstances that could result in the removal of a peer monitor include where:

- The peer monitor’s personal or professional interests’ conflict with his or her duties as a peer monitor
- The peer monitor has knowledge of non-compliance by the monitoree and has failed to report such non-compliance.
- The peer monitor has incurred a legal infraction, has relapsed, or is under discipline by the AGC.

RESOURCES

For more information regarding the Michigan Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program contact Jennifer Clark, at 517-346-6348.