



Licensed Body (ABS) Code

(Version 1.0 - effective from 1 January 2025)

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This Code must be read with the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is the parent document of the CLC Handbook and Frameworks; it sits above all other Codes in our regulatory arrangements. The Code of Conduct prescribes six Ethical Principles of behaviour which are essential to delivering the specific Outcomes which sit beneath each of the Ethical Principles. All CLC regulated individuals and bodies are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct in the delivery of authorised reserved legal activities and permitted non-reserved legal activities.

The CLC also publishes several other topic specific Codes addressing important areas of practice, including this Licensed Body (ABS) Code. Topic specific Codes underpin the Code of Conduct and support regulated individuals and bodies in delivering the Ethical Principles and Outcomes of behaviour defined in the Code of Conduct. Topic specific Codes apply to all regulated activities carried out by the individuals or bodies specified in that Co

In this Code 'you' refers to Licensed Bodies regulated by the CLC, except where 'you' is provided under the heading of a designated role in which case the 'you' refers to that role. You must ensure that you always comply with the Code of Conduct and topic specific Codes and must not permit anyone else to act or fail to act in such a way as to amount to a breach of this Code, the Code of Conduct, or the Ethical Principles.

Should circumstances arise in which there is an apparent conflict between a topic specific Code, the Code of Conduct, or any other regulatory requirement, you must ensure that you comply with the Code of Conduct. If in doubt, contact the CLC for advice.

Governance and operational arrangements

1. You ensure all persons with a material interest, managers and employees understand and comply with their regulatory responsibilities and do not compromise the body's duty to the Court or Client.
2. You enable the Head of Legal Practice (HoLP) and Head of Finance and Administration (HoFA) to discharge their regulatory responsibilities.
3. You enable Authorised Person(s)/Parties to comply with their own regulatory responsibilities.
4. You ensure persons with a material interest are unable to exert improper influence on the body.
5. You systematically prevent, identify and address improper influence, allowing independence to be maintained and the rule of law to be upheld.
6. You provide a mechanism by which staff can identify regulatory concerns to the HoLP, and any finance-related concerns to the HoFA also.
7. You operate complaints-handling procedures which consider complaints about both lawyers and non-lawyers.

Specific Requirements

8. You have a designated HoLP and HoFA and have applied for/obtained CLC approval of these individuals.
9. Your HoLP and HoFA have experience and qualifications appropriate to the body's profile.
10. Your HoLP and HoFA are members of the senior management team or Board, or report to the senior management team or Board.

11. You provide the HoLP and HoFA with access to the Licensed Body's managers and staff and the CLC whenever necessary and their views are taken into account and the recommendations taken forward wherever possible.
12. You specifically authorise the HoLP and HoFA to dissent from collective responsibility when reporting to the CLC.
13. You ensure Non-Authorised Persons who propose to hold a material interest of 10% or more, or a material interest holder proposes to acquire an additional kind of interest, notify both the body and the CLC.
14. You ensure the HoLP is notified of any 'fit and proper' issue concerning the owner(s), the HoLP, HoFA, other Managers or Authorised Person(s)/Parties.

Specific Requirements – Non-Authorised Persons with Material interest

15. You are a 'fit and proper' person and declare to the HoLP any factors affecting this.
16. You do not attempt to exert improper influence over the body or individuals within it.
17. If you intend to acquire an additional kind of material interest you inform both the Licensed Body and the CLC.

Business arrangements

Specific requirements

18. You have at least one Authorised Person(s)/Parties, authorised to provide each reserved legal activity the body delivers.
19. You do not employ any person disqualified from being employed by a Licensed Body or any person not fit and proper.
20. You do not share Client information with other parts of the business without the Client's permission.

Head of Legal Practice

Principles

21. You understand the regulatory responsibilities of the body.
22. You act upon regulatory responsibility concerns raised by staff.
23. You keep up-to-date with legislative and regulatory requirements through targeted Continuous Professional Development.
24. You ensure Authorised Person(s)/Parties employed by the body are fit and proper.
25. You report to the CLC any governance concerns including improper influence.

Specific Requirements – of the Individual

26. You are an Authorised Person(s)/Parties in relation to one or more of the reserved legal activities.
27. You are a 'fit and proper' person and declare to the Licensed Body and the CLC any factors affecting this.

Specific Requirements – of responsibility

28. You ensure the Licensed Body complies with CLC regulatory arrangements and any licence authorisations, permissions and conditions, promptly reporting any breach to the CLC.
29. You ensure Authorised Person(s)/Parties are able to comply with their regulatory responsibilities, promptly reporting to the CLC any breach of this.
30. You ensure all Non-Authorised Person employees, managers or material interest holders do not cause or substantially contribute to the Licensed Body or any of its employees, managers or Authorised Person(s)/Parties, breaching its/their regulatory responsibilities, promptly reporting to the CLC any failures to comply.
31. You ensure persons proposing to acquire a material interest in the body, or who have already done so are aware of their duty to notify.
32. You ensure you are informed promptly of any circumstance identified under the CLC Notification Code.

Head of Finance & Administration Principles

33. You protect client money and assets at all times.
34. You understand the regulatory responsibilities of the body.
35. You keep up- to-date with legislative and regulatory requirements through targeted Continuous Professional Development.

Specific Requirements – of the individual

36. You are a ‘fit and proper’ person and declare to the HoLP any factors affecting this.

Specific Requirements – of responsibility

37. You ensure the body complies with the CLC’s treatment of money requirements, promptly reporting any breach of these.
38. You promptly report to the CLC when the body is in financial distress or is at significant risk of becoming financially distressed.
39. You provide administrative arrangements to support the maintenance of high standards of work.
40. You ensure that proper records are maintained to evidence the body’s management and supervision arrangements and how they are applied.