

Petition for Admission FAQ's

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1. May the attorney who signs a petition on behalf of a petitioner for admission be a relative of the petitioner?

Yes, a relative of a petitioner may sign a Petition for Admission as the recommending attorney. Please note, however, that letters of recommendation in support of a Petition for Admission may **not** be submitted by family members or relatives. See [Letters of Recommendation Guidelines](#) for further information.

2. Does the petitioning attorney have to be Licensed to practice in Massachusetts?

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The petitioning attorney does NOT have to be a Massachusetts attorney. The attorney must be licensed and in good standing in any U.S. jurisdiction.

3. Should letters of recommendation submitted in support of my Petition for Admission be filed with the Court in a sealed envelope?

No, the letters of recommendation are filed as part of your application package. They must include the recommenders' original signature and should be included as part of your bar petition.

4. Should the letters of recommendation be sent to the Board of Bar Examiners directly?

No, the letters of recommendation are filed as part of your Petition for Admission which is filed with the [Supreme Judicial Court Clerk for the County of Suffolk](#).

5. Do letters of recommendations have to be signed by an attorney?

No, letters of recommendation do not have to be signed by an attorney. They should be signed by a person, other than a family member or relative, who can speak to your attributes for the practice of law. A member of the bar, however, must sign the petition for admission on page two of the bar petition and may also submit one of the letters of recommendation.

6. Must Letters of recommendation include the original signature of the author or can someone else sign on their behalf?

Recommendation letters must be submitted with original signature of the author.

7. Are there specific requirements for the content or length of a letter of recommendation?

There are no specific length or content requirements. Please see [Information for Letters of Recommendations](#).

8. How long does an MPRE score remain valid and what is the minimum passing MPRE score for purpose of admission in Massachusetts?

For purposes of admission to the Massachusetts Bar, your Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) score is valid for an indefinite period. Massachusetts requires a scaled score of 85 or greater on the MPRE.

9. Can I take the MPRE after taking the bar exam?

No, the MPRE score report indicating a passing scaled score of 85 or higher is a filing requirement for admission. All questions regarding the MPRE should be directed to the [Supreme Judicial Court Office of the Clerk for the County of Suffolk](#) at (617)557-1050.

10. Do I have to list all the positions I have held since my 18th birthday?

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Yes, all jobs must be included on your application.

11. Am I required to list all the internships positions?

Yes, both paid and unpaid.

12. Can I send in my Springfield Seating Request before filing my petition?

Yes, you may send your Springfield seating request to the Board of Bar Examiners at the address listed on the form any time during the admission by examination filing period. Please note that Springfield seating is very limited.

13. When does the petition for admission become available and what is the deadline to submit the petition?

The petition and the deadline is set for each exam administration by the Supreme Judicial Court Clerk's Office for Suffolk County. Please see [bar exam dates](#). The petition for admission link will be available from the Board of Bar Examiners.

14. How can I receive a copy of my bar Petition for Admission?

You may request a copy of your Petition for Admission to the Bar from the Supreme Judicial Court Office of the Clerk for the County of Suffolk. See [Requesting a copy of your Petition for Admission](#) for more information.

15. Am I required to list all jurisdictions to which I am admitted to the bar on the petition cover sheet?

Yes.

16. What delivery method is acceptable for filing my petition (i.e. hand-delivered, Fedex, etc.)?

Any delivery method is acceptable provided the requisite documents are RECEIVED (not postmarked) by the filing deadlines. For more information see [How to file the bar petition](#) or contact [SJC Clerk's office for the County of Suffolk](#).

17. I have had a name change and the name on my diploma from law school may differ from the name indicated on the Petition for Admission. Is this a problem?

See [Instructions for Attorney Name Change](#) or Contact the [SJC Clerk's office for the County of Suffolk](#) at (617) 557-1050.

18. I am already registered with ExamSoft for another bar exam.

Yes, you must register with [ExamSoft](#) for the each jurisdiction and pay all applicable fees.

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19. To what office do I send an addendum for my bar petition? What do I have to include?

Every addendum must be signed, include your name and contact information, and sent to the [SJC Clerk's office for the County of Suffolk](#).

20. What should I do if my contact information changes before or after the exam?

All contact information needs to be current. Changes should be sent to the Supreme Judicial Court Clerk's Office for Suffolk County. Complete the [BBE Address Change Form](#) and mail or fax it as stated on the form.

21. The bar petition requires my NCBE identification number. How do I obtain this?

The NCBE identification number is assigned to you when you register with the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). To obtain a number or to find out if you have a number already, visit www.ncbex.org/ncbe-number. More information on the NCBE is available at www.ncbex.org.

22. When petitioning to sit for the Massachusetts bar exam, am I required to complete a character and fitness application that is separate from the general petition for admission?

No. The Massachusetts Petition for Admission **by Examination** incorporates character and fitness questions into the general petition.