

Any person who has voluntarily resigned their license to practice law in Washington and who seeks readmission to active status must do so in one of two ways:

1. If it has been less than 4 years since voluntary resignation, by filing an [application for readmission](#) including a statement detailing the reasons the person voluntarily resigned and the reasons the person is seeking readmission; or,
2. By seeking [Admission by Motion](#) pursuant to [APR 3\(c\)](#) (if the person is licensed as a lawyer in another U.S. jurisdiction and meets the requisite active legal experience).

A person seeking readmission after voluntary resignation must comply with the WSBA Bylaws. In addition, all applications for readmission after voluntary resignation shall be subject to character and fitness review pursuant to the provisions of [APR 20–24](#). The applicant shall be responsible for the costs of any investigation, bar examination, or proceeding before the Character and Fitness Board and Board of Governors. The [Character and Fitness Board](#), and (on review) the [Board of Governors](#), have broad authority to withhold active status or to impose conditions on readmission to Active status, which may include retaking and passing the bar examination required for admission in cases where the applicant fails to meet the burden of proof required by [APR 20-24](#).

If an application for readmission is granted and it has been less than four consecutive years since the voluntary resignation, the applicant must earn approved MCLE credits in the three years preceding the application (45 for lawyer applicants and 30 for LLLT and LPO applicants), in accordance with the MCLE requirements for one reporting period for a person on Active status, and complete an additional reinstatement course sponsored by the WSBA and specifically approved for this purpose. The credits that might otherwise be available for the reinstatement/readmission course will not be counted toward the credits required in the three years preceding the application.

If it has been more than four consecutive years since the voluntary resignation, the applicant must take and pass the bar examination required for admission (unless a lawyer applicant qualifies for admission by motion).

Upon completing the CLEs and the reinstatement course or passing the bar examination, the applicant must pay the license fees and assessments and complete and submit all required licensing forms for the year in which the applicant will be readmitted. The applicant must take the required oath and will not be readmitted to the practice of law until so order by the Washington Supreme Court.

A person who voluntarily resigned and is seeking readmission through admission by motion pursuant to APR 3(c) must comply with all requirements for filing such application and for admission upon approval of such application.

Necessary forms and detailed information about returning to active status may be found on our web site at: www.wsba.org.

All questions and inquiries about status changes may be directed to statuschanges@wsba.org; or, call (206) 239-2131.

Any discrepancy or conflict between the information provided here and the rules and regulations set by the Washington State Supreme Court, or the bylaws and policies of the Washington State Bar Association, is unintentional and will be resolved in favor of strict compliance with the rules, regulations, bylaws and policies.

