

New law defines "court reporting firm" as any person, company, corporation, organization, partnership, group, limited liability entity, commercial enterprise, or other entity doing business in Louisiana that is owned or controlled by a person who is not licensed by the board to practice court reporting and that engages others or itself engages in any aspect of the practice of court reporting as defined by statute or by rule, including such activities as arranging for or engaging the services of a licensed court reporter, reporting, recording, taking, producing, transcribing, delivering, or invoicing depositions, court proceedings, sworn statement, or other similar preservation of testimony, or any other activities as identified in rules promulgated by the board.

New law further provides that a lawyer admitted to practice in Louisiana, a group of lawyers, or a law firm, or the clerical or administrative employees of such, are not to be considered a "court reporting firm".

New law provides that a court reporting firm is considered a "person" and a "reporter" for the purposes of present law.

New law provides that if a licensed Louisiana court reporter has no actual knowledge of a prohibited employment or contractual relationship between a party litigant and a court reporting firm, and if the reporter receives certification that the firm has no prohibited contractual or employment relationship with a party litigant, the reporter may accept employment from the firm and shall not be considered an "employee" for purposes of present law.

New law requires the Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters to establish by rule the procedures and representations by which a court reporting firm shall provide the necessary certification to court reporters.

Existing law authorizes the Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters, on its own motion or if requested in writing by verified complaint, to investigate the actions of any person applying for, holding, or claiming to hold any certificate, or any person practicing court reporting without first having obtained a certificate.

New law requires that at the commencement of any such investigation, notice shall be provided to any person subject to the investigation and shall provide the nature and subject of the investigation.

Effective Aug. 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 37:2557(B); Adds R.S. 37:2555(G) and 2556(D))