Committee Opinion April 20, 1984

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 570

MENTALLY INCOMPETENT CLIENT/ APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE/ CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

An attorney who believes that her client is mentally disabled is not obligated by the Code of Professional Responsibility to petition the court for a committee or other personal representative. The attorney is entitled to do so however, if she deems it to be in the best interest of her client.

When the attorney has received information by affidavit which the affiant has asked not be disclosed to the client, the attorney is none the less under an obligation to advise her client that such affidavit exists. [EC:7-12, LE Op. 463 and DR:6-101(D)]

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Legal Ethics Committee Notes. – Rule 1.14 provides guidance to lawyers representing clients under a disability.