



SACRAMENTO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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CLIENT'S CONSENT TO ARBITRATION OF A FEE DISPUTE

Attorney

Client

Attorney _____ has asked for arbitration of the fee dispute between you. A copy of the attorney's *Request for Arbitration* is attached.

If you agree to arbitrate this dispute, it will be submitted to an independent, impartial arbitrator or panel of arbitrators who will hear both sides of the dispute and make an award that is fair to both parties.

The law says that a client does NOT have to arbitrate unless he or she wants to. Please note, unless you consent in writing to participate in the mandatory fee arbitration program, you cannot be compelled by the attorney to participate. However, if you choose not to consent to participate, the attorney will have the right to file an action in court to collect any unpaid attorney's fees.

If you want to arbitrate this fee dispute, please fill out this form and the enclosed reply form and return it to this office within 30 days of the date of the attached proof of service.

**Sacramento County Bar Association
Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program
8928 Volunteer Lane, Ste. 250
Sacramento, CA 95826
Telephone (916) 604-9726
FeeArb@sacbar.org**

Before you decide whether to arbitrate, you may wish to read the enclosed Rules of Procedure for Fee Arbitrations for the Sacramento County Bar Association and the Enforcement of Awards by the State Bar of California. These rules explain how fee arbitration takes place.

Number of Arbitrators:

If the fee dispute is for less than \$25,000, it is heard by one (1) arbitrator. If it is for \$25,000 or more, the dispute is heard by three (3) arbitrators. If both you and the attorney agree, you can have the dispute heard by one (1) arbitrator even if the dispute is for \$25,000 or more.

Do you agree to one arbitrator? Yes No

Response to Attorney's Arbitration Request:

Please give us your response to the attorney's arbitration request, including the reason(s) you believe that the attorney's fees are too high (attach additional sheets as necessary).

Effect of Arbitration:

Unless both parties agree in writing to binding arbitration, this arbitration is non-binding. This means that if you or the attorney are not satisfied with the award, either of you has the right to ask for a new trial in a civil court within 30 days from the date the award is mailed to you. If neither of you ask for a new trial within 30 days, the award AUTOMATICALLY becomes final and binding on both of you.

Do you agree to binding arbitration? Yes No

I, _____, agree to submit the fee dispute mentioned above to Mandatory Fee Arbitration by the Sacramento County Bar Association.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that my statements on this consent form and any attachments are true and correct.

Client's Signature

Date