**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (NBA-ICLE) AND REVIEWED NEW MCPD RULES**

This document addresses frequently asked questions regarding the Nigerian Bar Association Institute of Continuing Legal Education (NBA-ICLE) and the reviewed Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) Rules.

**NBA-ICLE General Information**

**Q1: What is the NBA-ICLE?**

A: The NBA-ICLE is the training and capacity-building arm of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). It is responsible for developing and implementing continuing legal education programs for lawyers in Nigeria, ensuring they stay current with legal developments and maintain professional competence.

**Q2: What is the purpose of the NBA-ICLE?**

A: The primary purpose of the NBA-ICLE is to promote continuous professional development and enhance the skills and knowledge of legal practitioners in Nigeria. This is achieved through various training programmes, workshops, conferences, and online resources.

**Q3: Who manages the NBA-ICLE?**

A: The NBA-ICLE is managed by the NBA-ICLE Board, appointed by the NBA National Executive Committee. The Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the institute and overseeing its operations.

**Q4: How can I contact the NBA-ICLE?**

A: Contact information for the NBA-ICLE can be found on the NBA website or through the NBA Secretariat.

**Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) Rules**

**Q5: What is MCPD?**

A: MCPD refers to the Mandatory Continuing Professional Development program, which requires lawyers to participate in a certain number of hours of continuing legal education annually to maintain their practicing license. Under the new MCPD Rules, lawyers are required to complete a minimum of 5 CPD hours per year.

**Q6: Why is MCPD important?**

A: MCPD is crucial for ensuring that lawyers remain competent and abreast of changes in the law, legal practice, and ethical standards. It protects the public by ensuring lawyers provide quality legal services.

**Q7: What are the key changes in the new MCPD Rules, 2025?**

A: The new MCPD rules, which are a review of previous rules, aim to improve the effectiveness and accessibility of continuing legal education, it introduces:

* A mandatory minimum of 5 CPD hours per year.
* Expanded list of qualifying CPD activities.
* Sanctions for non-compliance, including denial of a Practicing Certificate.
* Clearer tracking mechanisms for CPD compliance.

**Q8: Where can I find the reviewed MCPD Rules, 2025?**

A: The reviewed MCPD Rules, 2025 are available on the official NBA website under the ICLE dropdown menu and will be disseminated through NBA communication channels.

**Q9: How many CPD hours are required under the new rules?**

A: Every lawyer must complete a minimum of 5 CPD hours annually to maintain their practicing license.

**Q10: What activities qualify for CPD credit?**

A: Eligible activities include:

* Attending the **NBA Annual General Conference**
* Participating in approved and accredited **NBA Branch CPD Programmes**
* Attending NBA-ICLE training organised by **Approved Service Providers**
* Attending **CPD Programmes** where approved training is delivered
* Joining accredited training sessions organised by **NBA Sections and Fora**
* Participating in **NBA-ICLE online** training sessions
* Publishing articles in **NBA Branch or Faculty Journals** (subject to Board approval and CPD credit allocation)

**Q11: How do I track my CPD hours?**

A: Lawyers must track their CPD hours through MCPD Forms and NBA-ICLE verification. An online tracking system will also be introduced.

**Q12: What happens if I don’t meet the required CPD hours?**

A: Failure to complete the required 5 CPD hours annually may result in penalties, as outlined in the reviewed rules. These could include fines, suspension from practice, or other disciplinary actions.

**Q13: Are there exemptions from MCPD requirements?**

A: Yes. The MCPD Rules, 2025 provide exemptions for:

* Judicial officers and retired judges.
* legal practitioners exercising full-time judicial functions.
* Lawyers facing health or financial hardship (upon application for a waiver).

**Q14: How often are the MCPD rules reviewed?**

A: The NBA periodically reviews the MCPD rules to ensure their effectiveness and relevance.

**Q15: Where can I get more information about the NBA-ICLE and MCPD?**

A: The best sources of information are:

* The official NBA website.
* NBA-ICLE publications.
* Communications from the NBA Secretariat.
* Direct contact with the NBA-ICLE office.

Disclaimer: This FAQ document provides general information and should not be considered legal advice. Always refer to the official publications of the NBA-ICLE and the reviewed MCPD Rules for the most accurate and up-to-date information. It is recommended to seek professional legal advice for specific situations.