



PACE TIMES...

RARE AMNESTY ANNOUNCED FOR PACE

The PACE Standards Committee has approved a one-time amnesty period effective immediately through the end of April, 2009. During this limited time, any former RP who has not timely renewed can submit a renewal application without having to petition the PACE Standards Committee for a waiver.

Expired RPs who wish to take advantage of the amnesty period must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Renewal Form & Fees:** Submit a renewal form to NFPA Headquarters and pay the required renewal fee of \$25. The former RP will also be responsible for payment of the late fee penalty of \$25 and the renewal fee(s) for any renewal periods during which they should have, but did not renew. The renewal form can be downloaded from the NFPA website at http://www.paralegals.org/associations/2270/files/PA_CE_Affidavit_of_Continuing_Education.pdf. See example below for fee calculation.

- 2. Continuing Legal Education Requirements:** Any expired RP wishing to take advantage of this opportunity must also include Continuing Legal

Education (CLE) credits for all missing renewals along with the renewal application. The amount of CLEs required to renew within this amnesty period will be dependent on how many renewal periods the expired RP missed. See example below for calculation of CLE hours requirement. NFPA approved CLEs will be accepted provided they were taken any time between the time of the last renewal and April 30, 2009. Please note that all CLEs submitted must have been provided by an NFPA approved provider or that approval has been obtained from the CLE Coordinator. The NFPA PACE Coordinator-Renewals cannot approve your CLE requests!

- 3. Expiration Date:** The renewal period will extend for two years from the date of the last scheduled (but missed) renewal. The amnesty will put the RP back on the original renewal schedule with the renewal. See example below.

- 4. All requests for RP reinstatement under this Amnesty Period must be postmarked on or before April 30, 2009.** Any former RP who has not timely renewed after this period will have to provide a compelling reason why he/she failed

to timely renew.

Example: Assume that you are an RP who last renewed in 2004 but did not renew in 2006 or 2008 - your credential is now expired and you may not use the RP or PACE Registered Paralegal title. To become current, all you need to do during this amnesty period is pay \$75 (\$25 for the late fee, and \$25 for each renewal missed - 2006 and 2008) and provide evidence of 24 hours of CLE (with 2 hours of that in Ethics) (12 hours each two year period with at least one hour in Ethics each renewal period) and complete a renewal application. Your renewal would bring your registration current with an expiration date of your PACE Anniversary date in 2010.

If you are not sure of your RP status, please contact NFPA Headquarters to find out your current status and the number of missed renewals. You can also check your wallet-sized RP card to determine the date of your next renewal. If you have specific questions about the amnesty, or how many CLEs and the fee that you will owe to come current, please contact Ann Price, RP at:

vpdp@paralegals.org.



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Please note that this is a rare opportunity for lapsed RPs. This also has implications for those who are no longer practicing paralegals who might have let their credential lapse. These people might otherwise be eligible for RP Emeritus status but in order to become an RP Emeritus a paralegal must be an RP in good standing at the time the request is made.

*By Joshua H. Woolley, RP
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If you have any questions regarding PACE, please contact me:

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