

Automatic Temporary Suspension of Attorneys Found Guilty of "Serious Crimes" (R. 1:20-6(a))

Directive #4-85
Issued by:

April 9, 1986
Robert D. Lipscher
Administrative Director

To enable the Director of the Office of Attorney Ethics to certify that an attorney has been found guilty of a "serious crime" (see, R. 1:20-13(b)) prior to the filing of the post-sentence Judgment of Conviction, the Chief Justice has asked that I advise you that all judges are to notify the Director of the Office of Attorney Ethics by letter immediately upon a finding of guilt of a "serious crime," as defined by R. 1:20-13(b)(2), by an attorney whether through a plea of guilty, no contest, or *nolo contendere*, or through a verdict after trial or otherwise. That letter to the Director of the Office of Attorney Ethics should include the nature of offense and applicable statutory citation, indictment number, and the date and nature of the determination of guilt.

EDITOR-S NOTE

The text has been altered to reflect the correct rule subpart. R. 1:20-6 was amended November 7, 1988, adding a new paragraph (a) and redesignating the former (a) as (b). This change became effective January 2, 1989. Former R. 1:20-6 was redesignated as R. 1:20-13 and paragraph (b) was amended January 31, 1995 to be effective March 1, 1995.

R. 1:20-13 imposes a duty on attorneys to promptly inform the Director of Attorney Ethics if charged with an indictable offense and again upon the disposition of the matter. The reporting obligation of the judge is imposed by this directive.