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Informal Opinion 08-07

**Rule 1.15(f) and a Client's Irrevocable Authorization for His Lawyer to Pay
His Doctor's Bill Plus Interest**

When a lawyer knows his client has signed an irrevocable authorization for his lawyer to pay a doctor's bill upon the lawyer's receipt of funds, the lawyer must pay the bill unless his client objects, in which case the lawyer must hold the disputed funds in escrow until the dispute is resolved. Rule 1.15(f), commentary to Rule 1.15(f) and Informal Opinion 95-20.

We have been asked what a lawyer's obligation is if the irrevocable authorization covers not only payment of the doctor's bill but also interest. The addition of the interest component does not change the lawyer's obligation under the Rules of Professional Conduct. Whether a particular interest charge complies with applicable law is a subject not addressed by the Rules or by this opinion.

THE COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

By Wick R. Chambers

Wick R. Chambers, Chair