



PRACTICE ADVISORY

Photocopying a Client's File

The contents of a client's file belong to the client, not the lawyer. When a client is seeking a copy of their file, the lawyer should not be charging for any photocopying. (The situation may be different if the client comes back to the lawyer subsequently looking for copies of the same material.)

The reason for photocopying a client's file when the client leaves the lawyer is to protect the lawyer, not the client, and that should be at the lawyer's expense. Similarly, lawyers should not charge clients any fees for retrieving a client's file from any off-site storage facility the lawyer may maintain.