

08 March 2024

NOTICE TO LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

RISK AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAMME SUBMISSIONS TO FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER (FIC)

Dear Legal Practitioners

The Legal Practice Council (LPC) would like to inform all legal practitioners who operate trust accounts, and who have not yet done so, to register with FIC and urgently submit their Risk and Compliance Programmes to FIC on or before 15 March 2024. In terms of section 18.17 of the Code of Conduct, legal practitioners must take all such steps as may be necessary from time to time to ensure compliance at all times as an accountable institution with the requirements of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act, 38 of 2001.

Failure to comply with the FICA reporting requirements, including registration and submission of the Risk & Compliance Programme, will result in sanctions being issued by FIC, and, in addition, disciplinary action shall be initiated by the LPC in terms of the Code of Conduct.

The FIC has previously alerted legal practitioners and others to the need to comply, and the impact that non-compliance can have on the country's grey listing - see for example <https://www.fic.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Media-release-Designated-sectors-urged-to-file-outstanding-risk-and-compliance-returns.pdf>

Please refer to **Annexure A** – Guidance for developing Risk and Compliance Programme.

Below are the links for registration and the FAQs. Please visit the FIC website, [**FAQs**] then [**registration**] for more information.

<https://www.fic.gov.za/faq/>

https://goweb.fic.gov.za/goAMLWeb_PRD/WebRegistration/NewEntityCR

Legal Practice Council