

Information Attorneys Need to Know About IOLTA Compliance

Attorneys that enter the private practice of law and receive or handle client funds must deposit those funds in a separate bank account designated as “trust” or “escrow” account at an [“Eligible Financial Institution”](#). See Rule 1.14 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, “Safekeeping of Property”. If the client funds received are nominal in amount or short term, they must be deposited in an **Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Account (IOLTA)** bank account at an eligible financial institution. Resources for attorneys about opening and maintaining an IOLTA client trust account are available at [“A Lawyer’s Guide to Client Trust Accounts”](#).

The **Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by the Supreme Court of Texas in 1984 to administer the IOLTA program. These funds are used to award grants to non-profit organizations across Texas to provide free civil legal aid to the poor in Texas.

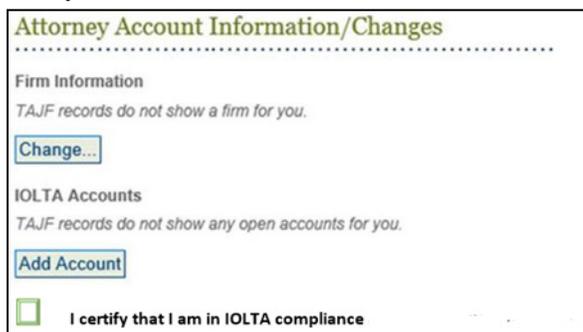
The Texas Supreme Court issued [“The Rules Governing the Operation of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation”](#) and Section 23 of those rules state that each year all attorneys licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas shall report annually IOLTA compliance to the Foundation. An attorney’s refusal to comply may result in their suspension.

The State Bar of Texas annual membership dues statements is one way to report your compliance with IOLTA. You can also go to TAJF’s website to report your compliance. **All** attorneys must verify that their IOLTA information with TAJF is correct and up-to-date **BEFORE** certifying their compliance. Even if you do not handle client funds, you still need to verify the information under your bar card number is correct. Please follow the instructions below to confirm IOLTA compliance.

No IOLTA Bank Account Needed

Attorneys, who are **not in private practice or do not handle client funds**, do **not** need an IOLTA bank account.

1. Go to <https://compliance.teajf.org/attorney/login.aspx>
2. Use your Texas Bar card number and Texas Bar PIN/Password to login.
3. Verify that an IOLTA is not associated with bar card. (see example below)



Attorney Account Information/Changes

.....

Firm Information
TAJF records do not show a firm for you.

IOLTA Accounts
TAJF records do not show any open accounts for you.

I certify that I am in IOLTA compliance

4. Once you review, check the box to certify your compliance.

IOLTA Bank Account Needed

Attorneys that enter into a private practice and receive or handle clients’ funds must deposit those funds in a separate bank account designated as “trust” or “escrow” account.

1. Go to <https://compliance.teajf.org/attorney/login.aspx>
2. Use your Texas Bar card number and Texas Bar PIN/Password to login.

3. Review the information for the IOLTA associated with your bar card and make any updates, e.g. close your IOLTA, open an IOLTA, indicate you are no longer with the firm listed, or indicate you are with a new firm.
4. Once you review, check the box to certify your compliance .

HELP SUPPORT CIVIL LEGAL AID

You can effortlessly support civil legal aid to the poor in Texas by selecting to open your IOLTA account with a financial institution that is a **Prime Partner** – banks that go above and beyond eligibility requirements to foster the IOLTA Program by paying higher interest rates on IOLTA accounts.

For questions or more information, email compliance@teajf.org or call **800-252-3401 ext. 108**.