State Bar of Montana - PO Box 577, Helena, MT 59624 - 406-447-2206

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_____
PETITIONER(S)

ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

-vs-

No. _____

_____

_____
RESPONDENT(S)

1) Petitioner(s) affirm(s) that they have previously attempted to settle this dispute with the other party through a meeting, telephone call or written communication and that not withstanding those efforts, the assistance of arbitrators is requested to resolve this dispute.

2) Each party affirms that they have received and read the State Bar of Montana's "Rules on Arbitration of Fee Disputes" and agrees to abide by those rules.

3) The parties agree that this dispute is not subject to a valid arbitration agreement under applicable state or federal law.

4) The parties agree that this dispute is not the subject of litigation filed prior to receipt of the Petition by the State Bar of Montana.

5) In addition to paragraphs 1 through 4 above, the parties further agree**:** (*choose and sign* ***ONE*** *of the following options*)

OPTION A: To participate in "binding" arbitration and to immediately be bound by the decision of the arbitrators. *(If both parties sign under Option A, the arbitrators' decision is final and cannot be reversed unless there is a showing of fraud or conflict of interest under the Uniform Arbitration Act.)*

_____ _____

Petitioner(s) Date Respondent(s) Date

OPTION B: To participate in "non-binding" arbitration, with the arbitrators' decision to become binding thirty (30) days after the date of the decision, unless Petitioner or Respondent files a lawsuit in the appropriate ~~a~~ court of law, within 30 days of the date of the arbitrators' decision, to settle this dispute. *(If either party chooses Option B, there is a 30-day grace period from the date the decision is mailed to the parties, allowing either party to file a lawsuit if they disagree with the arbitrators' decision).*

_____ _____

_____Petitioner(s) Date Respondent(s)

Date

OPTION C (for Respondent only)

I elect not to participate in the arbitration and understand that, depending upon my status as either attorney or client, Rules 5.5 and 5.6, respectively, will thereafter govern.

_____ _____

Respondent(s) Date