



## North Carolina Certified Paralegal

a sign of professional excellence

### Why Should You Become A North Carolina Certified Paralegal?

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- It demonstrates your commitment to the paralegal profession.
- It provides recognition that you have met high professional standards.
- It enhances the quality of legal services you provide to attorneys.
- It helps you stay current in the legal field.
- It makes the hiring process easier - your credentials are already verified.



**North Carolina State Bar**  
PO Box 25908  
Raleigh, NC 27611-5908  
Phone: (919) 828-4620  
<http://www.ncbar.com>  
<http://www.nccertifiedparalegal.gov>

## THE NORTH CAROLINA CERTIFIED PARALEGAL

The paralegal profession has seen significant and progressive growth since its birth in the mid-1960s. Paralegals no longer work just in traditional environments such as law firms and governmental agencies. The profession is expanding into corporate legal departments, paralegal teaching positions, freelance paralegal services, and paralegal management positions. Paralegals are also applying their paralegal skills to other careers. The profession is no longer considered a stepping-stone to law school. Furthermore, the days of paralegals working without formal education are steadily declining.

As a North Carolina paralegal you have an exciting opportunity to demonstrate your professionalism by choosing to become certified. The Plan for Certification of Paralegals was adopted by the NC State Bar and approved by the North Carolina Supreme Court in 2004. It is a *voluntary* certification program that allows paralegals certified by the NC State Bar to use the title "North Carolina Certified Paralegal" and "NCCP" and to demonstrate that they have met high professional standards.



## QUALIFICATIONS TO APPLY TO BE A NORTH CAROLINA CERTIFIED PARALEGAL

- Paralegal education (a degree in paralegal studies or a degree in any field plus 18 hours of paralegal coursework) and passing an examination.



## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Applications are available from the NC State Bar.
- If fee to apply to sit for the certification examination is \$125. Once approved to sit for the examination, an additional \$50 testing fee is required to take the exam.
- Six hours of CPE including one hour of ethics is required each year for NC Certified Paralegals.
- The renewal fee is \$50.

For information on The Plan for Certification of Paralegals, please visit our Web site:  
<http://www.ncbar.com>  
<http://www.nccertifiedparalegal.org>